

THE CHILLING ARCHIVES OF HORROR COMICS!™



FORELOCK the WARLOCK

HAUNTED HORROR™



"SOME OF THE GREATEST
HORROR COMIC MATERIAL
EVER TO BE REPRINTED!"

—DECAPITATED DAN

FORELOCK THE WIGBLOCK



Art by
Angelo Torres

BY TURNING
THE COVER OF
HAUNTED HORROR,
YOU HAVE JUST PRIED OPEN
THE LIDS OF MUSTY COFFINS,
UNLEASHING EERIE AND
TERRIBLE BEINGS BEYOND ALL
HUMAN IMAGINATION!
YOU AND ALL THOSE YOU HOLD
DEAR WILL BE UNMERCIFULLY
TORMENTED AND THEN
DESTROYED BY THESE
GHASTLY, EVIL DEMONS
FROM HELL.
CHEERS!



Look for the fifth
spine-fingling issue of
Haunted Horror
in two months!

If you collect horror comics and
other Golden Age fare, we're
always looking for scans for use
in our books and comics.
Please contact Craig Yoe
through Facebook.

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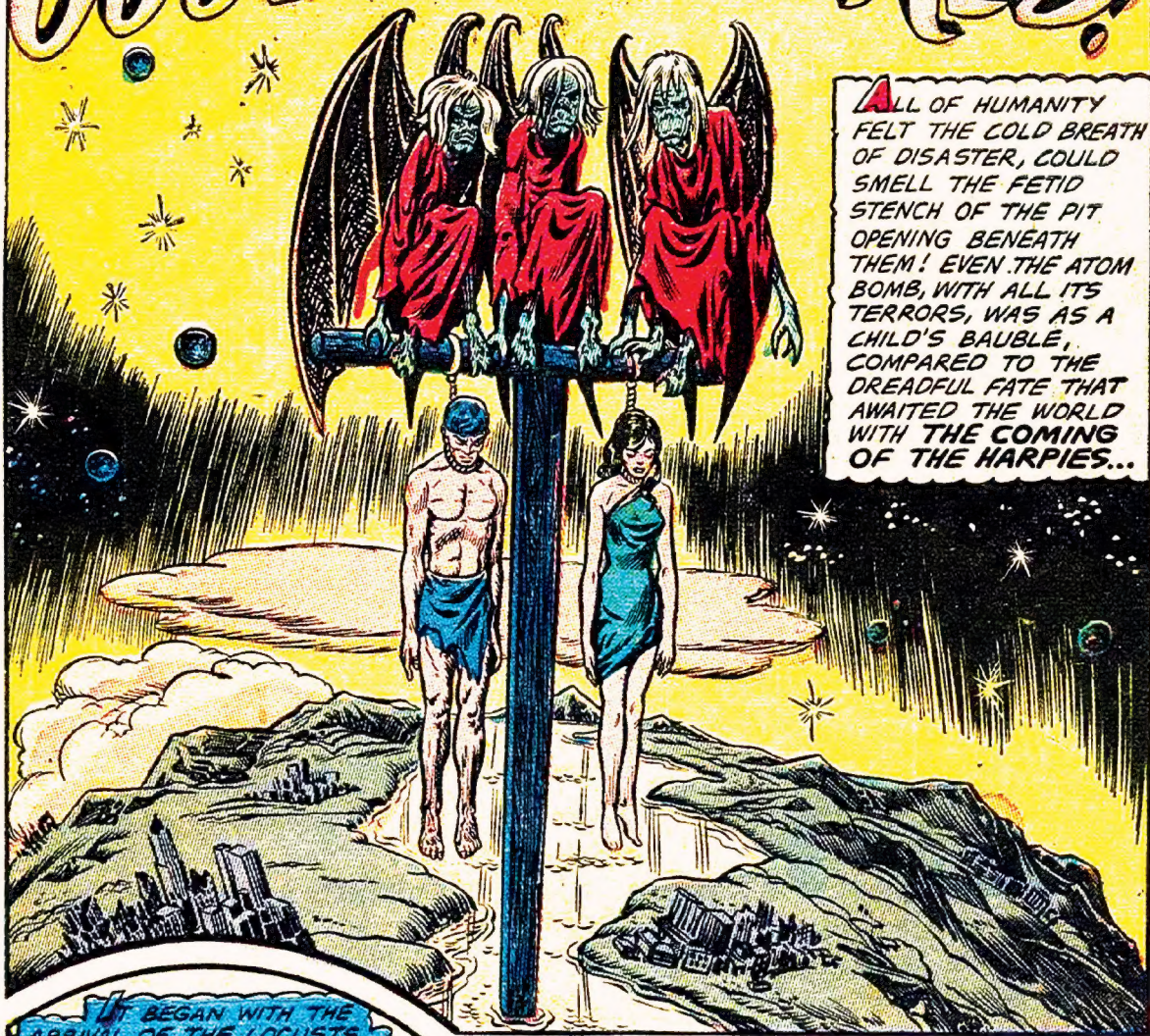
On the cover, *Weird Mysteries* #4, April 1953. Attributed to Bernard Bailey.

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GOODBYE... WORLD!



ALL OF HUMANITY FELT THE COLD BREATH OF DISASTER, COULD SMELL THE FETID STENCH OF THE PIT OPENING BENEATH THEM! EVEN THE ATOM BOMB, WITH ALL ITS TERRORS, WAS AS A CHILD'S BAUBLE, COMPARED TO THE DREADFUL FATE THAT AWAITED THE WORLD WITH THE COMING OF THE HARPIES...

IT BEGAN WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE LOCUSTS...

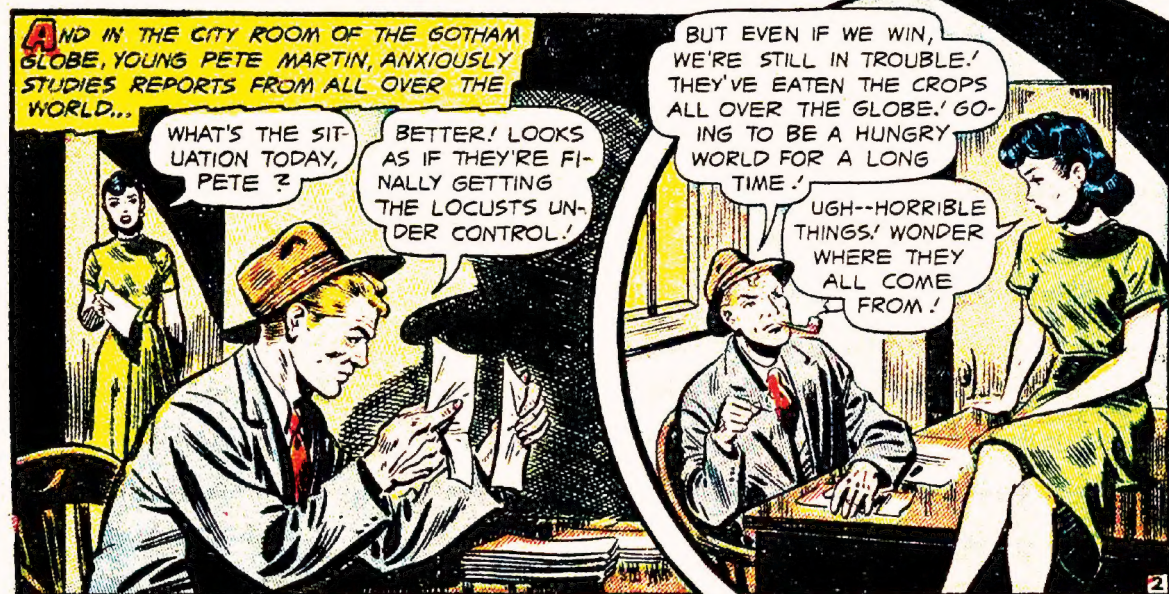
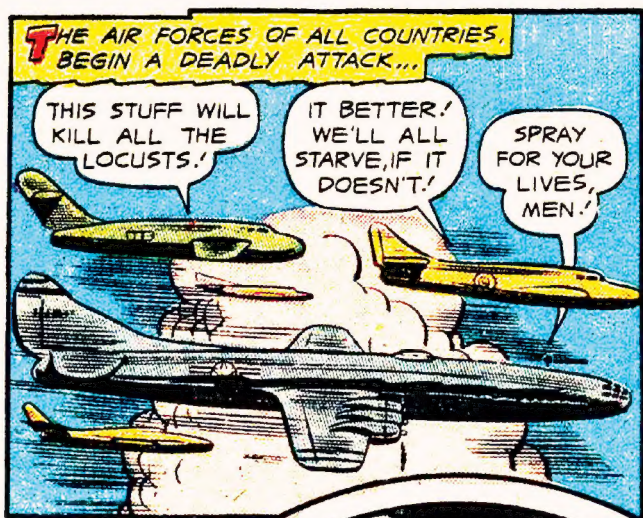
LOCUSTS! MILLIONS OF THEM! THEY'LL DESTROY EVERYTHING!

WE'VE GOT TO FIGHT THEM!

4 HOURS LATER IN WASHINGTON...

I TELL YOU THIS IS MORE THAN AN ORDINARY LOCUST INVASION! CALL OUT THE ARMY, THE AIR-FORCE, EVERYBODY! WE'RE FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES NOW!

I KNOW, SIR! THE LOCUSTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN RUSSIA, GERMANY, EVEN CHINA!



BUT IT WAS EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING, IN A DAKOTA FIELD, THAT A NEW AND STRANGER PHENOMENON WAS NOTICED FOR THE FIRST TIME...

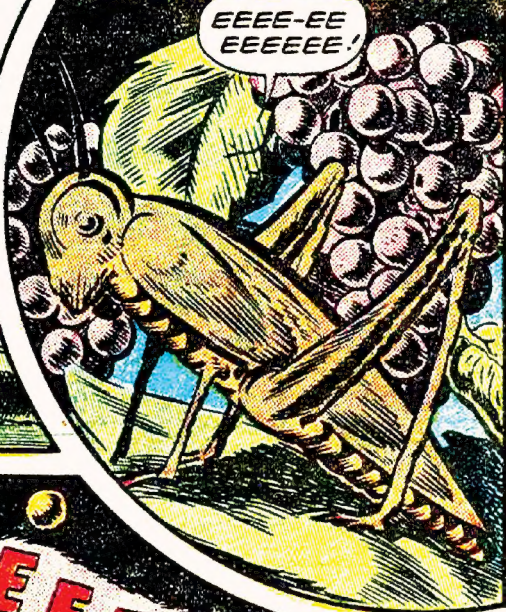
LISTEN! SOUNDS LIKE THE LOCUSTS ARE TALKING!

A WEIRD SOUND! I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE!



THE LOCUSTS ARE EMITTING A SHRILL SOUND--ALMOST AS THOUGH THEY WERE CALLING FOR HELP...

EEEE-EE EEEEE!

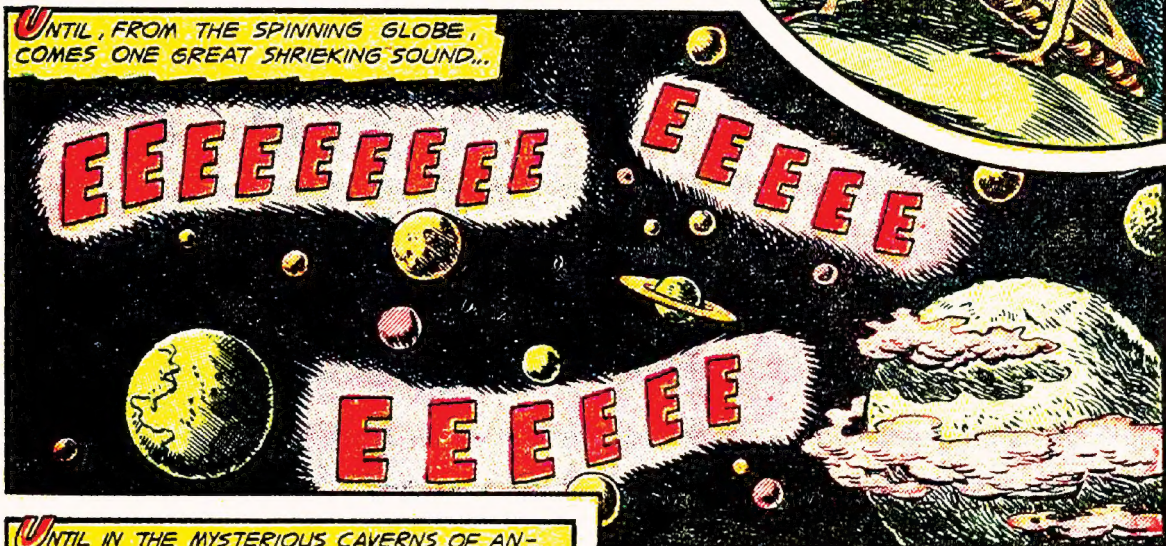


UNIL, FROM THE SPINNING GLOBE, COMES ONE GREAT SHRIEKING SOUND...

EEEEEEEEEEEE

EEEEEE

EEEEEE



UNIL IN THE MYSTERIOUS CAVERNS OF ANOTHER PLANET, MILLIONS OF MILES OUT IN SPACE, THE SOUND IS HEARD...

AT LAST! OUR SMALL BRETHREN CALL US! WE MUST AID THEM!

WE HARPIES WILL RULE THE UNIVERSE NOW! IT IS WRITTEN!

YES! OUR TIME HAS COME!

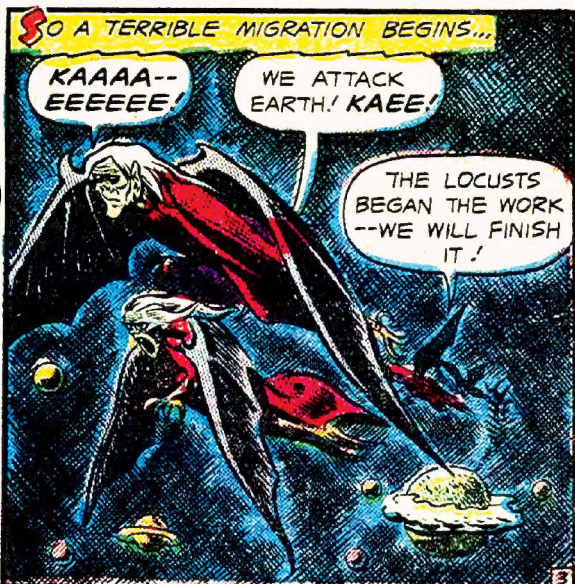


SO A TERRIBLE MIGRATION BEGINS...

KAAAA-- EEEEE!

WE ATTACK EARTH! KAAE!

THE LOCUSTS BEGAN THE WORK --WE WILL FINISH IT!



NOT UNTIL DAYS LATER WAS THE FIRST OF THE CREATURES SPOTTED BY INCREDULOUS HUMAN EYES...

MILDRED! LOOK!
AM I CRAZY OR
ARE THOSE--THINGS
REALLY THERE!

UHHH! W-WHAT
ARE THEY?

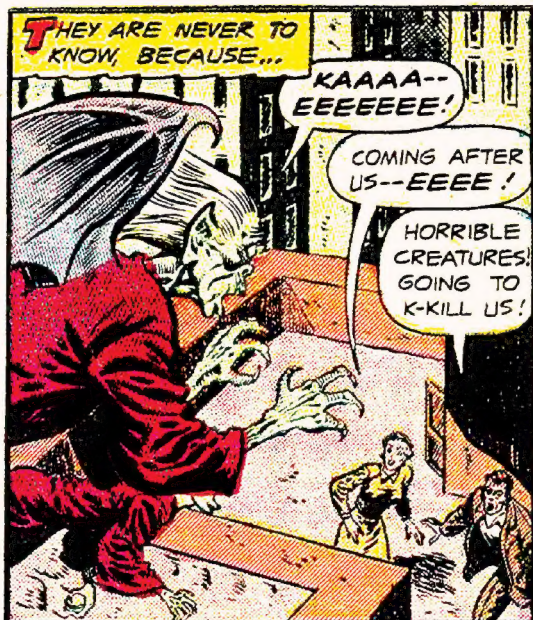


THEY ARE NEVER TO
KNOW, BECAUSE...

KAAAA--
EEEEEEE!

COMING AFTER
US--EEEE!

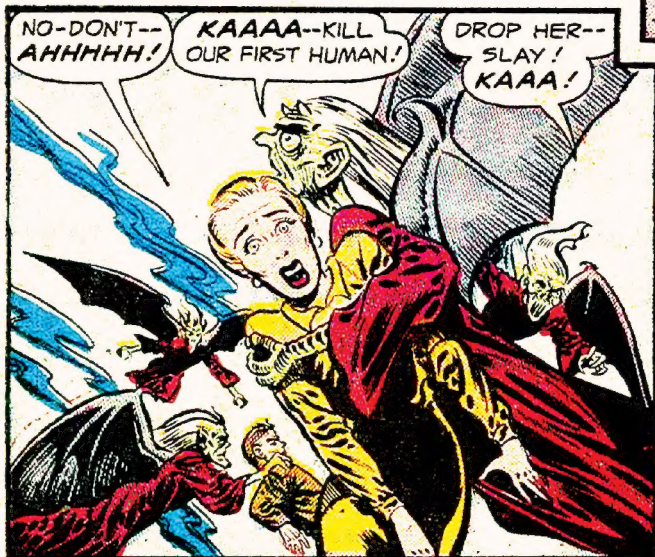
HORRIBLE
CREATURES!
GOING TO
K-KILL US!



NO-DONT--
AHHHHH!

KAAAA--KILL
OUR FIRST HUMAN!

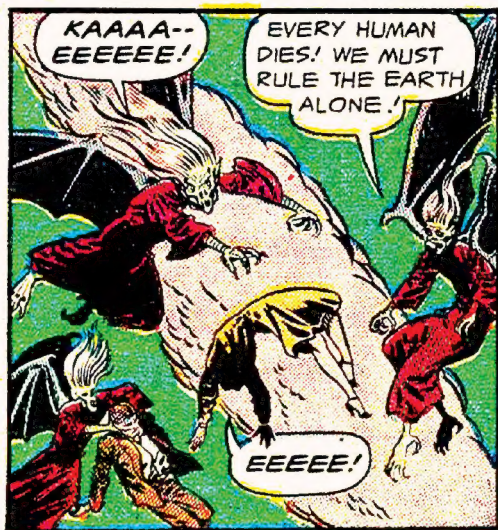
DROP HER--
SLAY!
KAAA!



KAAAA--
EEEEEEE!

EVERY HUMAN
DIES! WE MUST
RULE THE EARTH
ALONE!

EEEEEE!



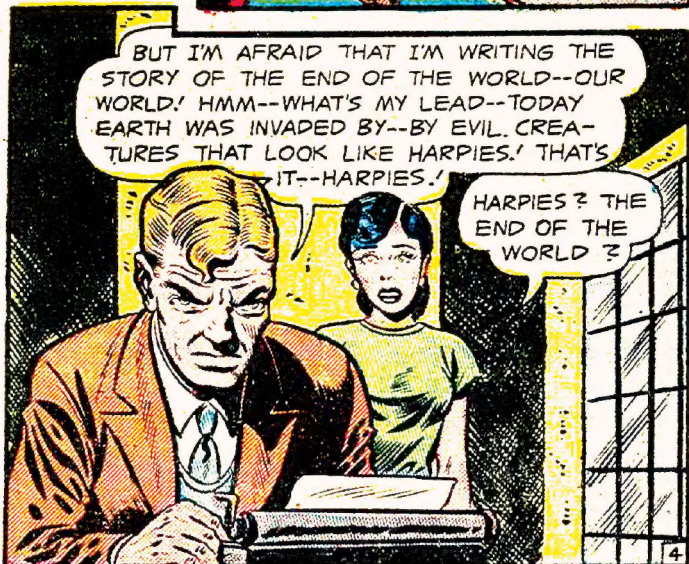
PETE! WHAT
IS IT? WHAT
CAN IT BE?

I DON'T KNOW,
HELEN! OR I DON'T
WANT TO KNOW--

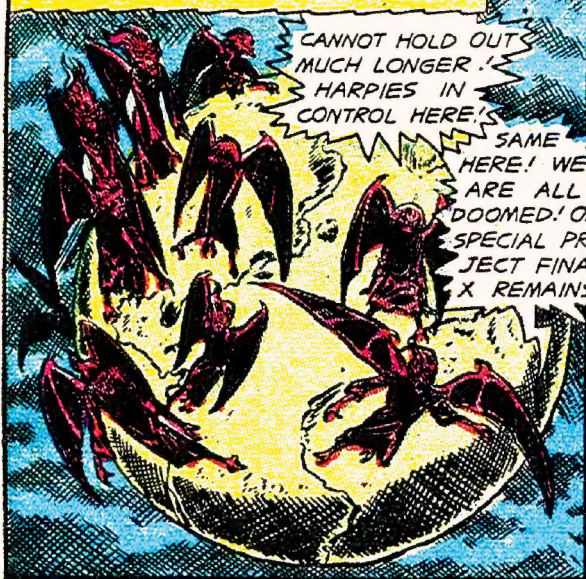


BUT I'M AFRAID THAT I'M WRITING THE
STORY OF THE END OF THE WORLD--OUR
WORLD! HMM--WHAT'S MY LEAD--TODAY
EARTH WAS INVADDED BY--BY EVIL CREA-
TURES THAT LOOK LIKE HARPIES! THAT'S
--IT--HARPIES!

HARPIES? THE
END OF THE
WORLD?



AND SO IT PROVED! AFTER A FEW DAYS, IN WHICH HUMANITY GREW WEAKER AND PERISHED BY THE MILLIONS...



CANNOT HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER! HARPIES IN CONTROL HERE!

SAME HERE! WE ARE ALL DOOMED! ONLY SPECIAL PROJECT FINAL X REMAINS!

AND WHAT IS SPECIAL PROJECT FINAL X? IN A VAULT FAR BELOW NEW YORK CITY...

YOU, PETE MARTIN, AND YOU, HELEN TOWNER, HAVE BEEN CHOSEN MORE BY FATE THAN ANYTHING ELSE! YOU ARE YOUNG, HEALTHY AND-- MORE IMPORTANT, STILL ALIVE!

BUT WHAT CAN WE POSSIBLY DO?

YES--WHAT?



A SPECIAL PLANE AND SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN PREPARED! YOU TWO WILL GO, ALONE, TO AN ISLAND IN THE ARCTIC SEA! IF YOU CAN SURVIVE, HAVE CHILDREN, THEN PERHAPS...

YOU UNDERSTAND! YEARS FROM NOW, PERHAPS WHEN THE HARPIES HAVE GONE, YOU CAN START THE HUMAN RACE ON ITS WAY ONCE MORE!

JUST WE--WE TWO!



THERE IS ONE CHANCE IN A MILLION THAT YOU CAN PREVENT THE EXTERMINATION OF THE HUMAN RACE! FROM WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED OF THESE CREATURES THEY DO NOT LIKE COLD! AND THEY ARE JUBILANT, AS THEY SHOULD BE, AND SURE OF VICTORY!



A FEW HOURS LATER...

HERE IS YOUR SHIP! WE WILL CONTROL IT BY RADIO, FROM HERE! WE HOPE TO SURVIVE UNTIL YOU LAND!

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO FLY IT! WE WILL DO EVERYTHING!

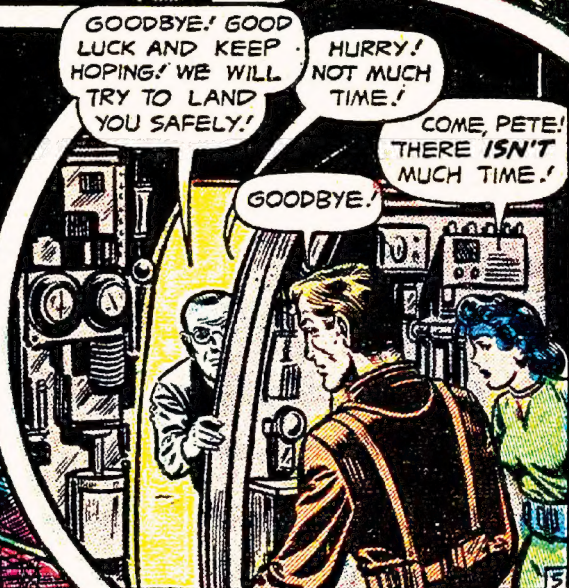
THE GREATEST STORY IN THE WORLD--AND NOBODY LEFT TO READ IT!

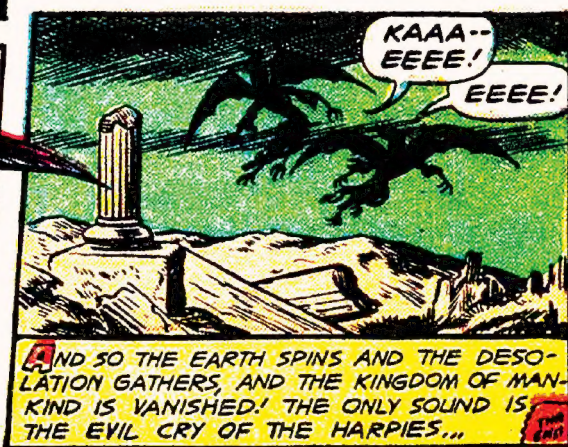
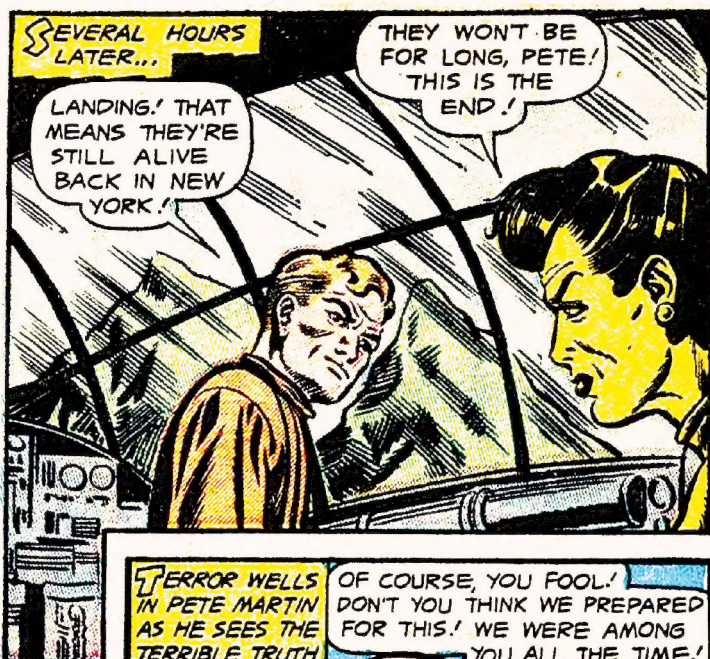
GOODBYE! GOOD LUCK AND KEEP HOPING! WE WILL TRY TO LAND YOU SAFELY!

HURRY! NOT MUCH TIME!

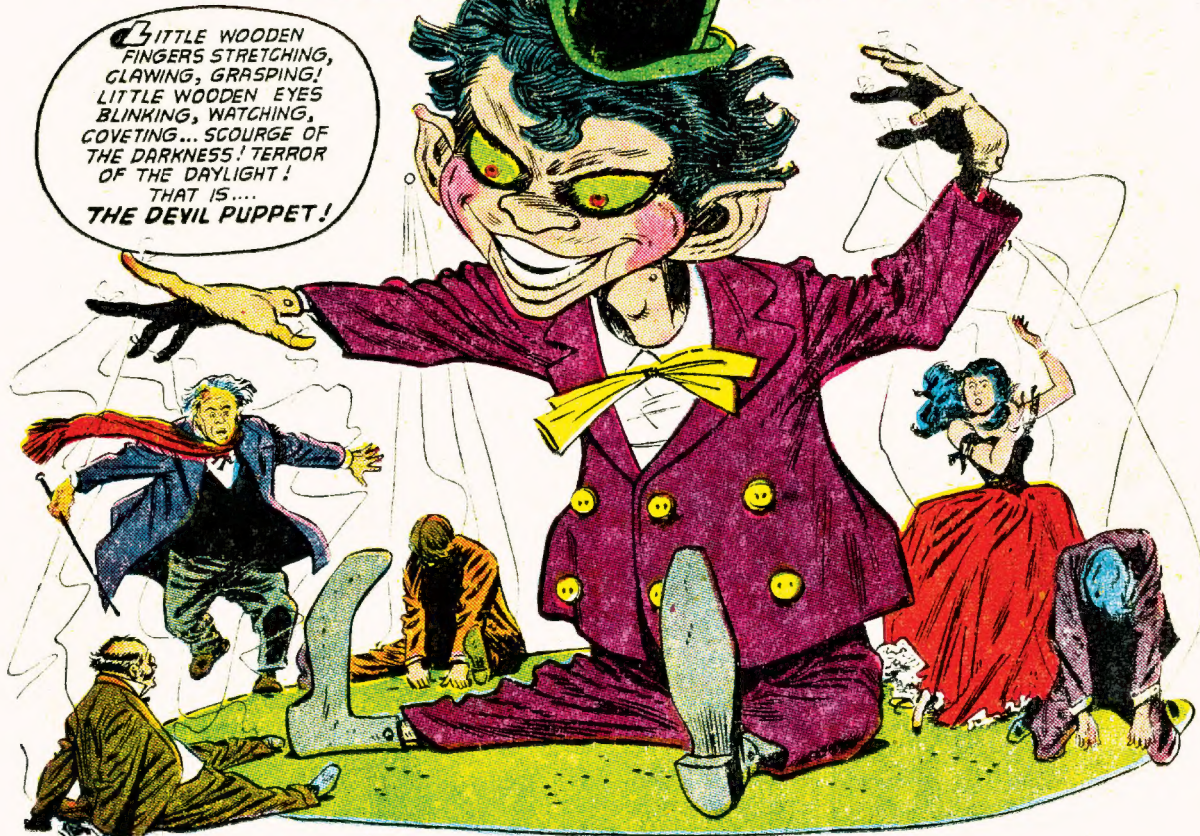
COME, PETE! THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME!

GOODBYE!



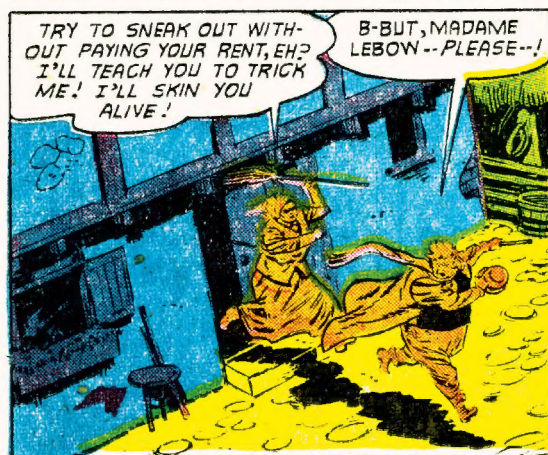


THE DEVIL PUPPET



LITTLE WOODEN
FINGERS STRETCHING,
CLAWING, GRASPING!
LITTLE WOODEN EYES
BLINKING, WATCHING,
COVETING... SCOURGE OF
THE DARKNESS! TERROR
OF THE DAYLIGHT!
THAT IS....
THE DEVIL PUPPET!

'PAPA' PIERRE GUTRO, THE OLD PUPPET-MASTER, DID NOT USUALLY FLY DOWN THE STAIRS WITH A WOMAN CHASING HIM-- BUT THIS TIME IT WAS DIFFERENT!



TRY TO SNEAK OUT WITHOUT PAYING YOUR RENT, EH? I'LL TEACH YOU TO TRICK ME! I'LL SKIN YOU ALIVE!

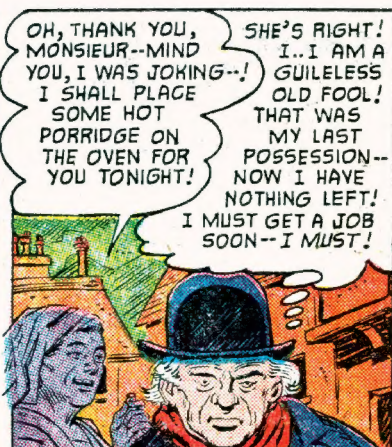
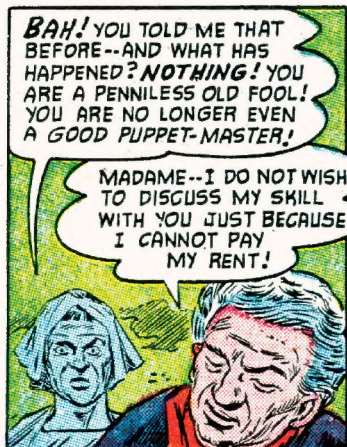
B-BUT, MADAME LEBON-- PLEASE--!

NO MORE OF YOUR TALK, FALSE ONE! EITHER PAY UP OR GET OUT! I WANT NO PROMISES-- I WANT MONEY!

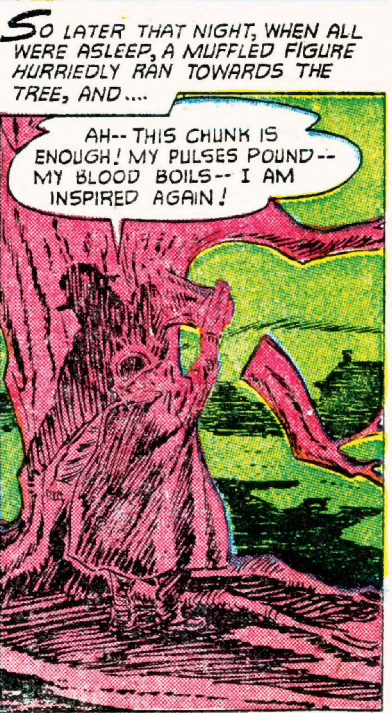
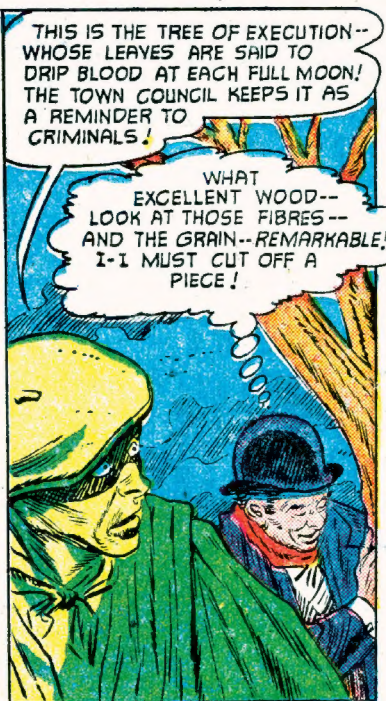
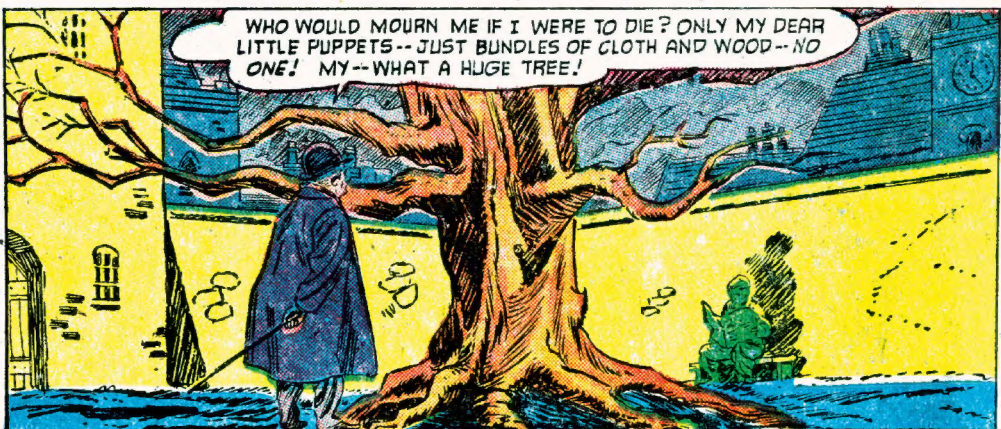
OOF... UGH... M-MADAME--

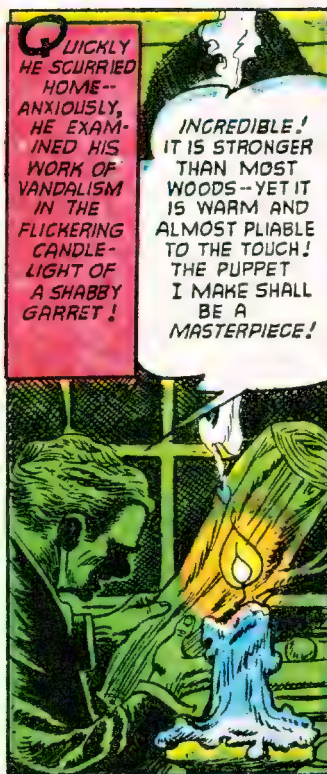
I-I AM TRYING TO EXPLAIN-- JUST LAST WEEK, MONSIEUR LE MANAGER OF THE THEATRE SAID THERE WOULD BE WORK FOR ME!





PAPA PIERRE WALKED ALONG THE COBBLESTONE STREETS OF THE LARGE PROVINCIAL TOWN, WEARY AND DISCOURAGED. HE HAD COME TO THE END OF HIS ROPE! NOW HE WANDERED AIMLESSLY INTO A HUGE COURTYARD!

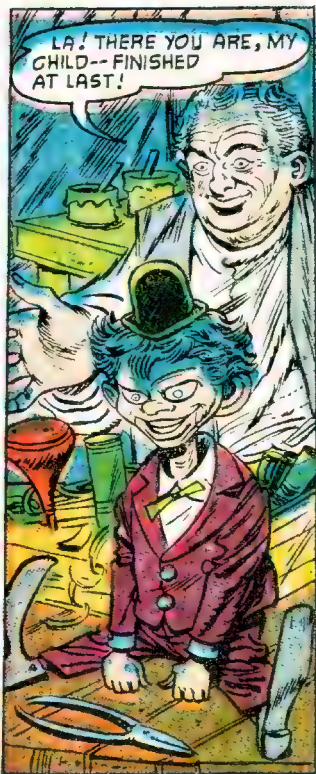




QUICKLY HE SCURRIED HOME-- ANXIOUSLY, HE EXAMINED HIS WORK OF VANDALISM IN THE FLICKERING CANDLE-LIGHT OF A SHABBY GARRET!

INCREDIBLE! IT IS STRONGER THAN MOST WOODS--YET IT IS WARM AND ALMOST PLIABLE TO THE TOUCH! THE PUPPET I MAKE SHALL BE A MASTERPIECE!

PERHAPS IT WAS BECAUSE PAPA PIERRE WAS A TRUE CRAFTSMAN--PERHAPS BECAUSE HE WAS HALF-CRAZED WITH WORRY OVER HIS FUTURE--AT ANY RATE, HE STARTED WORK IMMEDIATELY! DAY FOLLOWED DAY! THE BLOCK OF WOOD TOOK SHAPE--SLOWLY--SLOWLY...



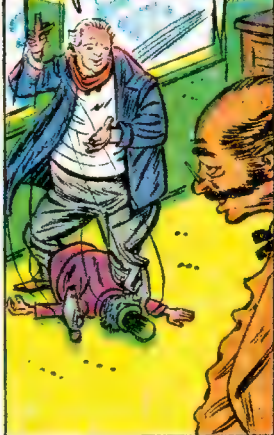
LA! THERE YOU ARE, MY CHILD--FINISHED AT LAST!

YOU ARE PERFECT IN EVERY DETAIL-- YOU ARE MY LIFE-- MY CHANCE OF HOPE! WE WILL BECOME HAPPY--YOU AND I-- BUT WHAT SHALL WE NAME YOU? I KNOW--WE'LL CALL YOU **JOJO THE PUPPET!**

OLD GUTRO WAS FILLED WITH A STRANGE CONFIDENCE EVERY TIME HE LOOKED AT THAT PINGHEED, COMICAL FACE! THE NEXT DAY, HE EVEN TRIED OUT FOR A JOB!

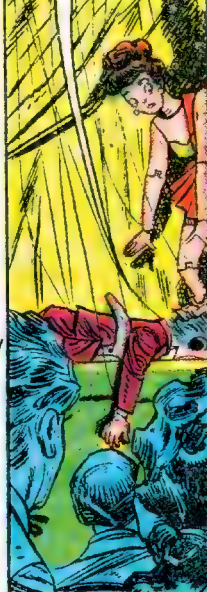
EH, BIEN-- NOW JOJO LAUGHS-- NOW HE CRIES--HE DIES!

EXCELLENT-- MARVELOUS! PAPA PIERRE --YOU OPEN TONIGHT-- **AT ONCE!**



OVER-NIGHT, HE WAS A SUCCESS! BUT IT WAS REALLY JOJO WHO WAS THE SUCCESS! THE AUDIENCE TOOK THE LITTLE FELLOW TO ITS HEART--THIS ADORABLE CREATURE WHO COULD LAUGH, CRY, AND DIE-- ALWAYS DIE--SO EFFORTLESSLY --SO COMICALLY!

AWK--SQUEAK--
AWK--I DIE FOR YOU, CHERIE
--AWK--GURGLE-BURP!



HA, HA! HE IS MAGNIFICENT! COME, LITTLE ONE--DIE AGAIN-- OH, MY SIDES HURT FROM LAUGHING!

JOJO--MY PRECIOUS! JOJO--HERE IS A GOLD COIN FOR YOU!

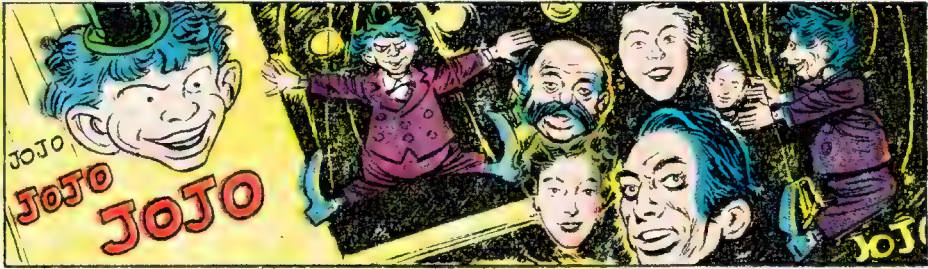




JOJO--JOJO--JOJO!
BRAVO!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU-- I-I AM SO HAPPY!
AND JOJO THANKS YOU, TOO!

PAPA PIERRE WAS A SENSATION! WORD OF HIS REPUTATION SPREAD! PEOPLE WANTED TO SEE JOJO! ISOLATED VILLAGES TURNED OUT EN MASSE FOR A NIGHT'S STAND! THERE WERE TOURS, TOURS, AND MORE TOURS!



ALWAYS JOJO WOULD DIE COMICALLY-- ALWAYS HE WOULD LOSE THE GIRL IN EVERY PLAYLET! AND AFTER EACH SHOW, HE WOULD HANG FORLORNLY ON A HOOK IN OLD PIERRE'S ROOM, UNTIL, ONE NIGHT...

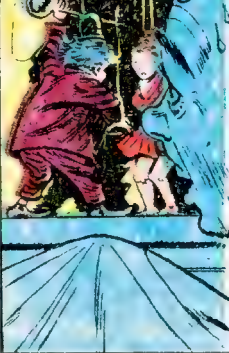
SQUEAK... SQUEAK...
AWK-- I-I WON'T DIE--
AWK-- I'LL LIVE--
SQUEAK...
LIVE!



AND IT WOULD ROLL ITS GLITTERING GLASS EYES, TWIST AND SQUIRM-- UNTIL PAPA PIERRE WOULD TOSS IN HIS SLEEP! THEN IT WOULD STOP-- ONLY TO BEGIN AGAIN! FINALLY, ON ONE AFTERNOON MATINEE, THE INEVITABLE HAPPENED!

AWK-- SQUEAK--SQUEAK
--I DIE FOR YOU, CHERIE--AWK--NO!
THIS TIME YOU'LL DIE! I REFUSE TO DIE!

WHA--? WHO SAID THAT?
SOMEONE IS PLAYING TRICKS ON ME!



NOW YOU'RE DEAD-- AND I'M ALIVE--AWK...
HEH, HEH... I'LL REMAIN ALIVE!

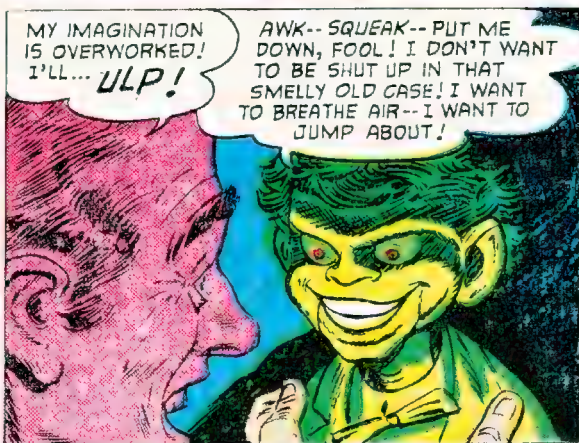
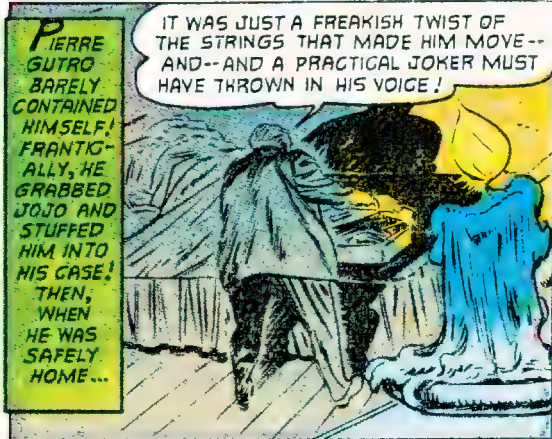
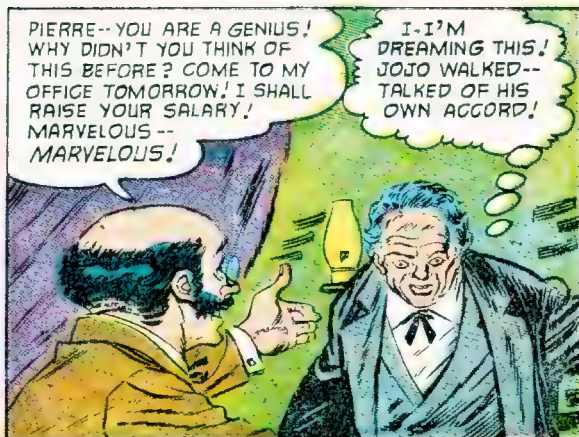
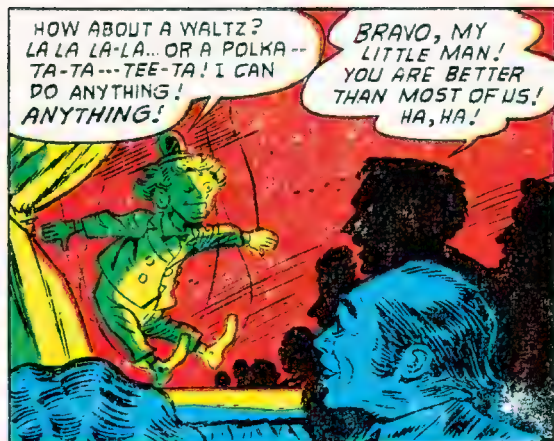
BUT THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! HERE ARE JOJO'S STRINGS-- I'M PULLING THEM SO THAT HE WILL LIE DOWN-- BUT HE WON'T! HE IS MOVING BY HIMSELF!

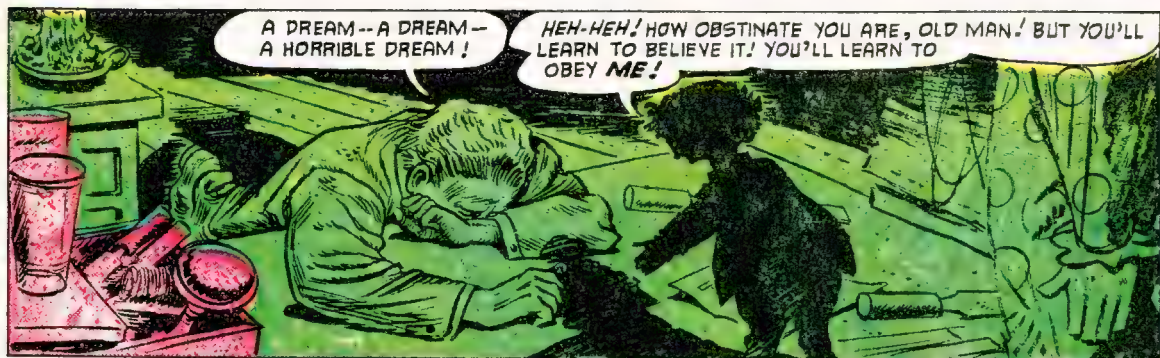


HEH, HEH-- I WIN! I WIN!
AWK-- AND SHE'S DEAD!
CLAP FOR ME!
THAT'S IT!
CLAP!

HODRAY FOR YOU, JOJO!
DO A DANCE FOR US, LITTLE ONE--!
BRAVO!







A DREAM--A DREAM--
A HORRIBLE DREAM!

HEH-HEH! HOW OBSTINATE YOU ARE, OLD MAN! BUT YOU'LL
LEARN TO BELIEVE IT! YOU'LL LEARN TO
OBEY ME!

NOW
OLD
PIERRE'S
LIFE
WAS
LIKE A NIGHT-
MARE...
FOR
JOJO THE
PUPPET
HAD
BEGUN TO
CONTROL
HIS AC-
TIVITIES--
GROWING
MORE
RESTLESS
--MORE
DEMAND-
ING OF
HIS
CREATOR'S
TIME!

YOU UP
THERE...
WITH THE
STRINGS--
GIVE ME
MORE
LIGHT!

ISN'T IT
A SCREAM?
GUTRO
MAKES
THE
PUPPET
SEEM
ALIVE!
HA, HA!

AND AT NIGHTS, WHEN THE PUPPET
HAD NOT SATISFIED ITS VANITY VIA
THE CROWD'S ADULATION, IT TOOK TO
ROAMING THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR THE
ADVENTURE OF ROBBERIES--- THE
THRILLS OF ASSAULTS!



THEN ONE NIGHT, AS
MONSIEUR CLAROT, THE
LAMPLIGHTER, WAS WALKING
ABOUT HIS DUTIES IN THE TOWN
THAT PIERRE GUTRO WAS
PRESENTLY PLAYING!

BRR... A COLD NIGHT AS
USUAL! W-WHAT WAS THAT?
I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING
MOVE IN THOSE SHADOWS--
A DOG, PERHAPS!



YA-A-AGH-H! IT IS A MIDGET!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE--?
N-NO--DON'T! AAAARGH!

DIE-- DIE!
I AM A HERO!



NOW I HAVE TASTED THE
POWER OF DEATH OVER A
HUMAN BEING! NOW MY
EMOTIONS ARE EQUAL TO
THEM... AWK... AND I FEEL
A NEW POWER--A POWER
TO DESTROY-- TO KILL!
HEH, HEH, HEH!



THE
NEXT
MORNING,
PIERRE
GUTRO
AWAKENED
TO FIND A
TERRIBLE
SIGHT--
A SIGHT
THAT
FILLED
HIM
WITH THE
DREAD
OF
OMINOUS
THINGS
TO COME--
A
SPECTACLE
OF
HORROR!

WHAT IS THAT ON THE
PUPPET? GOOD LORD!
IT HAS HAPPENED--I
KNEW IT WOULD! THERE
IS BLOOD ON ITS HANDS--!
HE HAS KILLED!





YES, OLD MAN!
I HAVE KILLED--
AND IT GIVES
ME JOY! I
WANT TO
KILL! AGAIN
AND AGAIN!

SACRE BLEU!
IT IS THAT EVIL
REPUTATION OF
THE TREE OF
EXECUTION! I--
I MUST DESTROY
THIS CREATURE!
THAT HAMMER!
IF I CAN ONLY...



OHH!

YOU THOUGHT I DIDN'T
SEE YOU PICK IT UP, DID
YOU? YOU'RE STUPID
TO DECEIVE ME!
STUPID! STUPID!



NO-NO--
PLEASE DON'T
HIT ME
ANY MORE!
I-I AM AN
OLD MAN!

YOU
REALIZE I
CAN KILL
YOU THEN!
I WILL NEXT
TIME, IF YOU
TRY THIS
AGAIN! YOU WILL
DO EVERYTHING
I SAY FROM NOW
ON--
EVERY-
THING!

SO THE WEIRD EVENTS
CONTINUED... THE
PUPPET-KILLING, THE
PUPPET-MASTER POWER-
LESS TO INTERVENE!
NEVERTHELESS, HE SENT
LETTERS TO THE POLICE,
SPOKE TO PEOPLE, BUT...

ANOTHER CRANK
LETTER--OR ELSE A
PUBLICITY STUNT!

PREFE

YOU
MUST
LISTEN...

WHEN ONE MORN-
ING, PIERRE GUTRO
WAS INVITED TO THE
COUNTRY ESTATE
OF A RICH PATRON
TO GIVE A SHOW
FOR GUESTS COME
TO CELEBRATE THE
ENGAGEMENT OF
THE HOST'S
BEAUTIFUL
DAUGHTER!

PUT ON THE BIGGEST,
THE MOST COMICAL
ACT THERE IS! THIS
IS AN OCCASION
FOR LAUGHTER
AND GAYETY!

Y-YES,
MONSIEUR!

HAT
AFTER-
NOON,
JOJO WAS
SUPREME
--PER-
FORMING
UNBE-
LIEVABLE
ACROBATIC
FEATS,
DELIGHTING
HIS
AUDIENCE.
SUDDENLY,
HE
GRABBED A
DECORA-
TION
FLOWER
AND FLUNG
IT AT THE
YOUNG
GIRL
SEATED
IN FRONT
OF HIM!



--AND HERE IS A
FLOWER FOR THE
LOVELY SHAQUE,
DAUGHTER OF OUR
HOST!

BRAVO,
MY LITTLE
JOJO!
BRAVO!

WELL, DARLING--!
IT SEEMS THAT I
HAVE COMPETITION
AS YOUR FIANCE!

COME NOW, VICTOR!
I THOUGHT THAT
WAS SWEET OF
JOJO! I LOVE YOU,
BUT OF COURSE I
ADORE HIM!





YOU DO, EH? GOOD, MY PRETTY! LET ME BE YOUR SWEETHEART! TELL THIS ONE TO LEAVE YOUR PRESENCE--OR I'LL KILL HIM--AWK--AWK--BURP--JUST LIKE THAT!



PLEASE, COME BACK, JOJO! LET MADEMOISELLE SHAQUE ALONE!

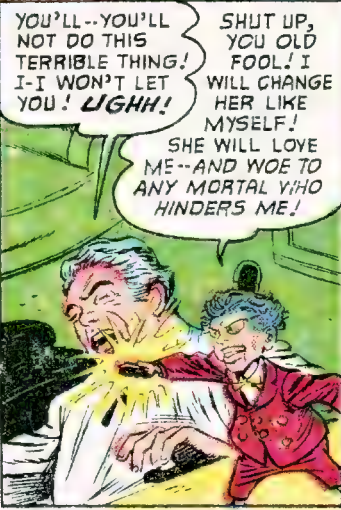
MONSIEUR GUTRO-- JOJO IS SUCH A CLOWN! YOU'RE A GENIUS TO THROW YOUR VOICE LIKE THAT-- AND IT'S SUCH FUN FOR US! HA, HA!



BUT LATER, IN THE SMALL GUEST ROOM THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO PAPA PIERRE, A MORE OMINOUS FARCE WAS TAKING PLACE!

I BEG OF YOU! DO NOT BELIEVE HER! SHE DOESN'T KNOW YOU'RE ALIVE--SHE WAS ONLY JOKING!

I HEARD HER! SHE LOVES ME! SHE'LL BELONG TO ME!



YOU'LL--YOU'LL NOT DO THIS TERRIBLE THING! I-I WON'T LET YOU! UGHH!

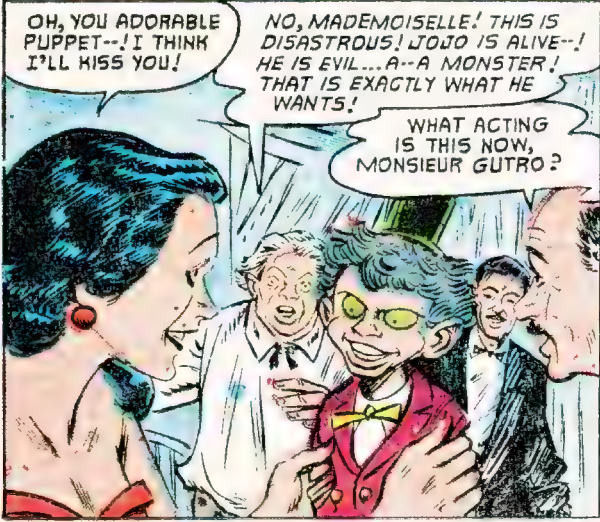
SHUT UP, YOU OLD FOOL! I WILL CHANGE HER LIKE MYSELF! SHE WILL LOVE ME--AND WOE TO ANY MORTAL WHO HINDERS ME!



IN THE EVENING SHOW JOJO OUTDID HIMSELF IN ANOTHER DAZZLING DISPLAY OF SHEER WONDER! AS USUAL, THE GUESTS WERE DELIRIOUS WITH PRAISE!

JOJO! JOJO! JOJO!

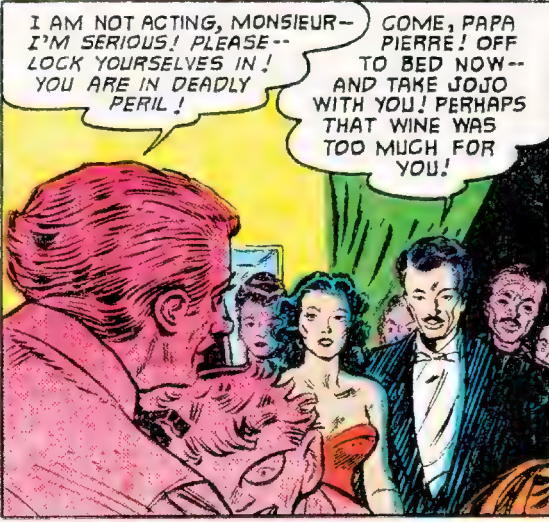
THANK YOU! I DEDICATE THIS PLAY TO MY LOVE, SHAQUE MIQUET!



OH, YOU ADORABLE PUPPET--! I THINK I'LL KISS YOU!

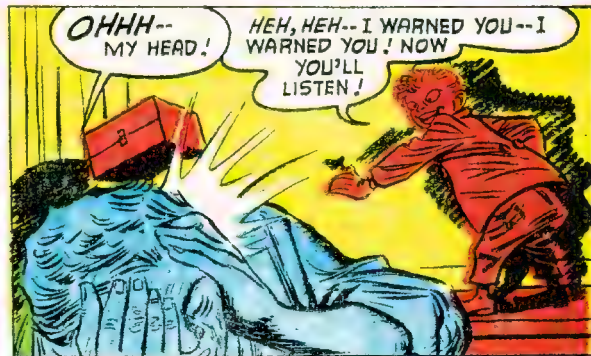
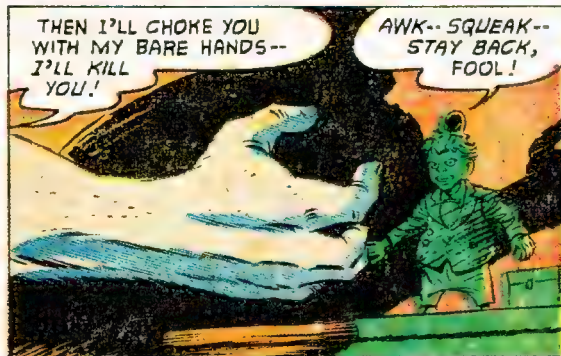
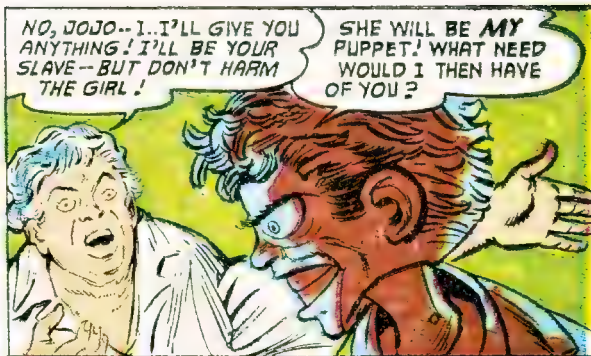
NO, MADEMOISELLE! THIS IS DISASTROUS! JOJO IS ALIVE--! HE IS EVIL...A--A MONSTER! THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTS!

WHAT ACTING IS THIS NOW, MONSIEUR GUTRO?



I AM NOT ACTING, MONSIEUR-- I'M SERIOUS! PLEASE-- LOCK YOURSELVES IN! YOU ARE IN DEADLY PERIL!

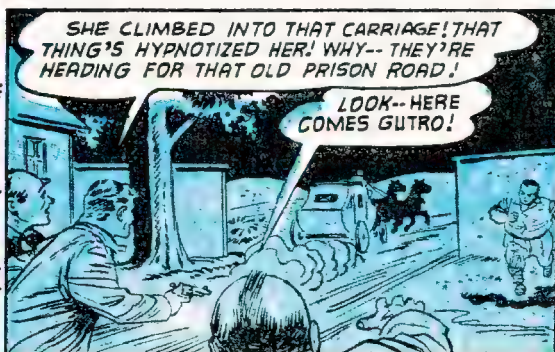
COME, PAPA PIERRE! OFF TO BED NOW-- AND TAKE JOJO WITH YOU! PERHAPS THAT WINE WAS TOO MUCH FOR YOU!



THE HOURS SLOWLY PASSED BY,
THE SILENCE OF THE NIGHT
MARRIED ONLY BY THE HOARSE
BREATHING OF A BEATEN, UNCON-
SCIOUS OLD MAN! THEN WHEN THE
LAST LIGHT OF THE HOUSE WENT
OUT, A TINY FORM GREPT STEALTH-
ILY THROUGH THE HALL UNTIL IT
HAD MERGED INTO THE SHADOWS
OF THE GIRL'S ROOM!



A FEW MINUTES AFTERWARDS, THE FIGURE OF A GIRL APPEARED ON THE PATH LEADING TO THE STABLES-- A FIGURE LED BY THE STRINGS OF A PUPPET! MOMENTS LATER...



SHE CLIMBED INTO THAT CARRIAGE! THAT THING'S HYPNOTIZED HER! WHY-- THEY'RE HEADING FOR THAT OLD PRISON ROAD!

LOOK-- HERE COMES GUTRO!



MAYBE I CAN SHOOT IT DOWN!

NO-- WE MAY HIT YOUR FIANCEE! QUICKLY-- SADDLE YOUR HORSES! THEY ARE GOING TO THE TREE OF EXECUTION!



THE TREE OF EXECUTION, WITNESS TO A THOUSAND DEATHS--NOW WITNESS TO A GREATER TRAGEDY-- THE TAKING OF A SOUL!

WALK TOWARD ME, PRETTY ONE! MY LIPS WAIT FOR YOU-- YOU'LL BE MY SLAVE! HEH, HEH!

GOOD LORD! WE'RE TOO LATE!



NO! THERE IS ONE LAST WAY! GIVE ME YOUR TORCH! WE MUST BURN THAT ACCURSED TREE!

CLOSER... CLOSER... HEH, HEH, HEH!



AAAAAAGH! I'M BURNING! HELP!

HE DID IT! THE OLD MAN DID IT! SHE'S SAVED!



OH-- IT WAS HORRIBLE-- HORRIBLE!

HUSH, DEAREST! IT'S ALL OVER!

VICTOR-- SHAQUE--! COME QUICKLY! SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED! IT IS PAPA PIERRE!

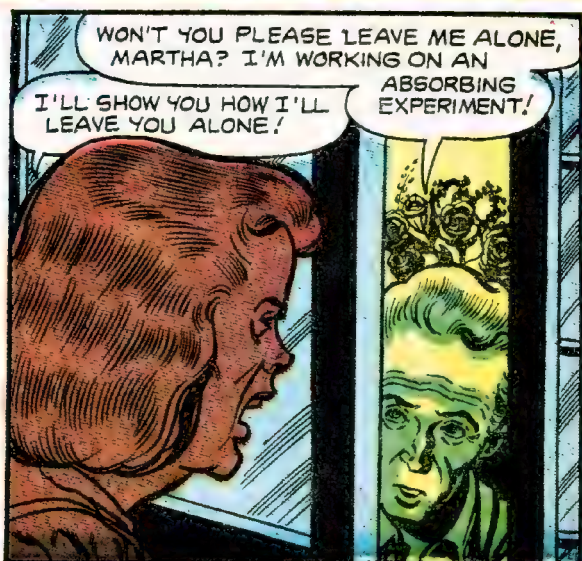
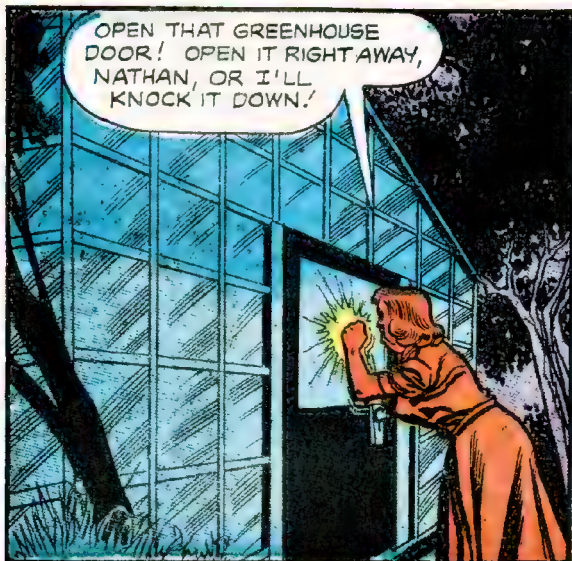
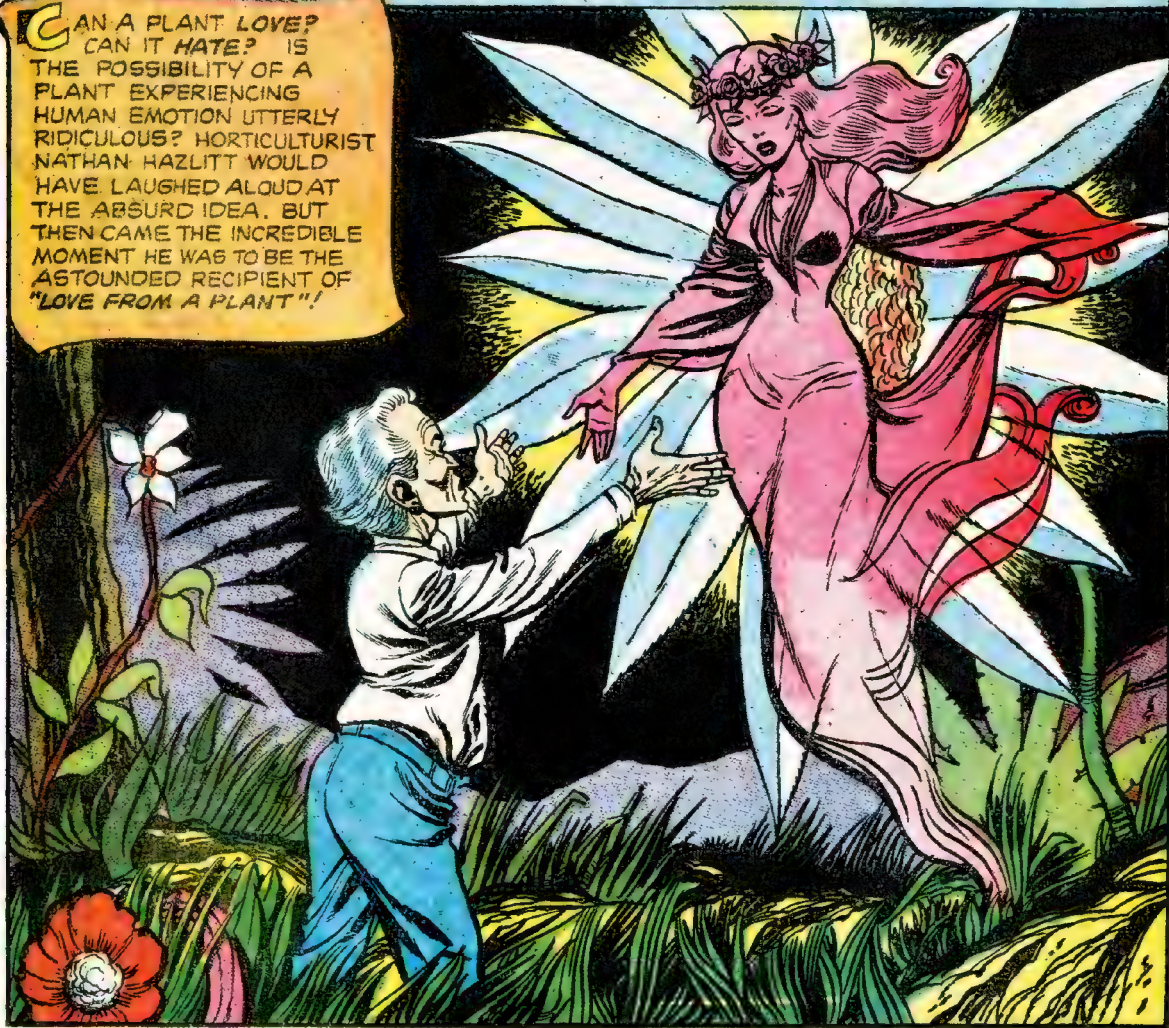


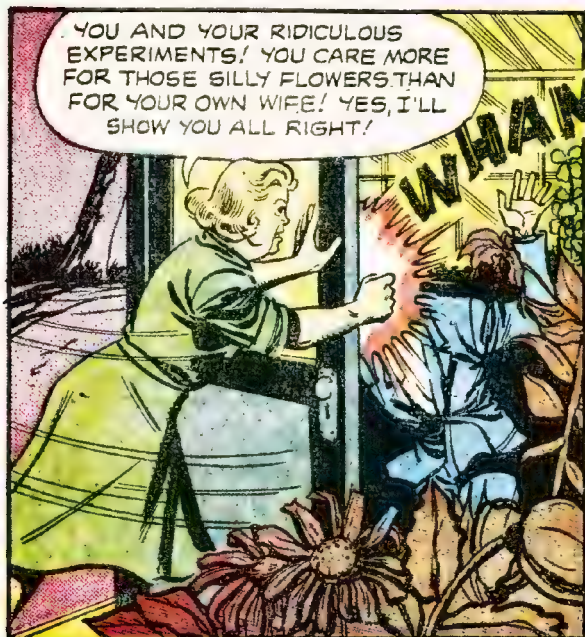
HEH, HEH... I'M DEAD--AWK... SQUEAK-- I'M DEAD... HEH, HEH, HEH!

AND THERE, GIBBERING IDIOTICALLY, SAT PIERRE GUTRO! HE HAD DELIBERATELY DESTROYED HIMSELF TO SAVE THE GIRL--FOR THE PUPPET'S LIFE HAD COME FROM THE MIND-- THE POWER OF HIS OWN BRAIN!

LOVE from a PLANT

CAN A PLANT LOVE? CAN IT HATE? IS THE POSSIBILITY OF A PLANT EXPERIENCING HUMAN EMOTION UTTERLY RIDICULOUS? HORTICULTURIST NATHAN HAZLITT WOULD HAVE LAUGHED ALOUD AT THE ABSURD IDEA. BUT THEN CAME THE INCREDIBLE MOMENT HE WAS TO BE THE ASTOUNDED RECIPIENT OF "LOVE FROM A PLANT"!





YOU AND YOUR RIDICULOUS EXPERIMENTS! YOU CARE MORE FOR THOSE SILLY FLOWERS THAN FOR YOUR OWN WIFE! YES, I'LL SHOW YOU ALL RIGHT!



THE DINNER'S GROWING COLD WHILE YOU TINKER WITH THESE HORRID PLANTS!

NO, MARTHA! PLEASE DON'T!

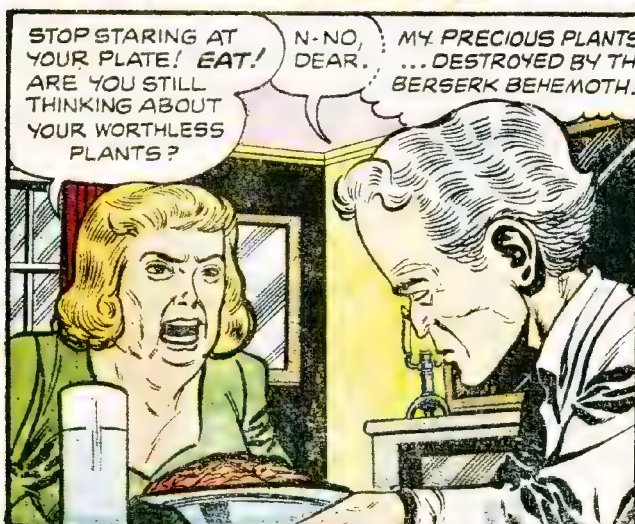


I HATE THEM! THEY'VE COME BETWEEN US! I'D LIKE TO DESTROY THEM ALL!



MONTHS OF LABORIOUS EXPERIMENTING... RUINED BY YOU IN A MOMENT OF ANGER... OW!

YOU'RE LUCKY I TOOK IT OUT ON THE PLANTS INSTEAD OF ON YOU!



STOP STARING AT YOUR PLATE! EAT! ARE YOU STILL THINKING ABOUT YOUR WORTHLESS PLANTS?

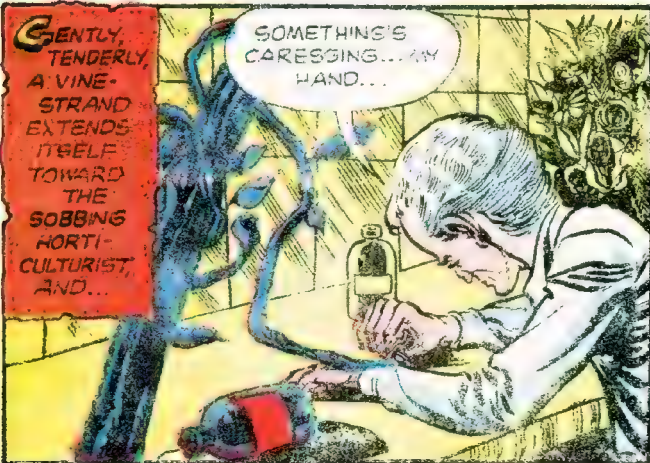
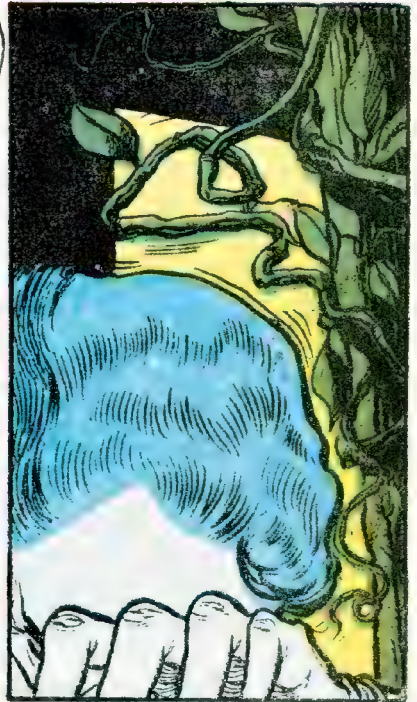
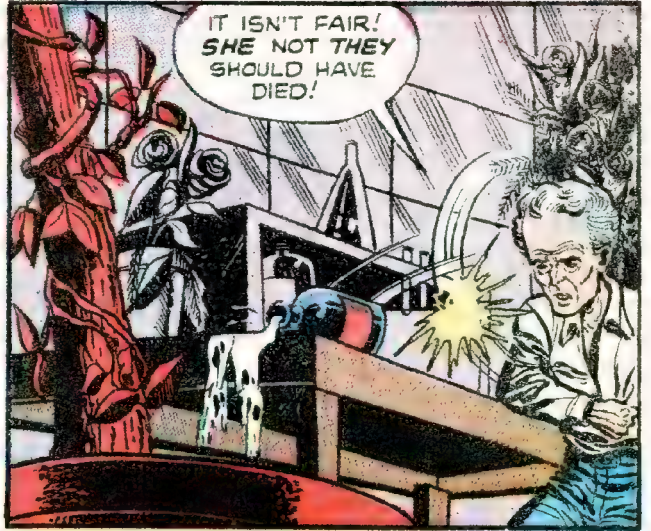
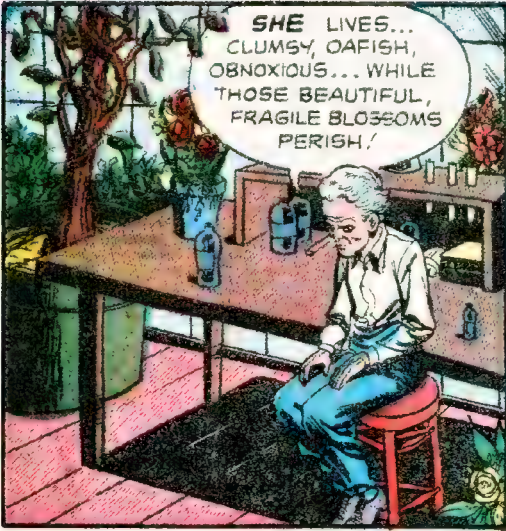
N-NO, DEAR.

MY PRECIOUS PLANTS ... DESTROYED BY THAT BERSERK BEHEMOTH!



AND LATER...

MARTHA DID THIS! I HATE HER!





A VINE... REACH
OUT BY ITSELF?...
IMPOSSIBLE!!



HAHAHA!! FOR
A MOMENT I ACTUALLY
THOUGHT IT STROKED
MY HAND... IN
SYMPATHY!



IT'S DOING IT...
AGAIN!



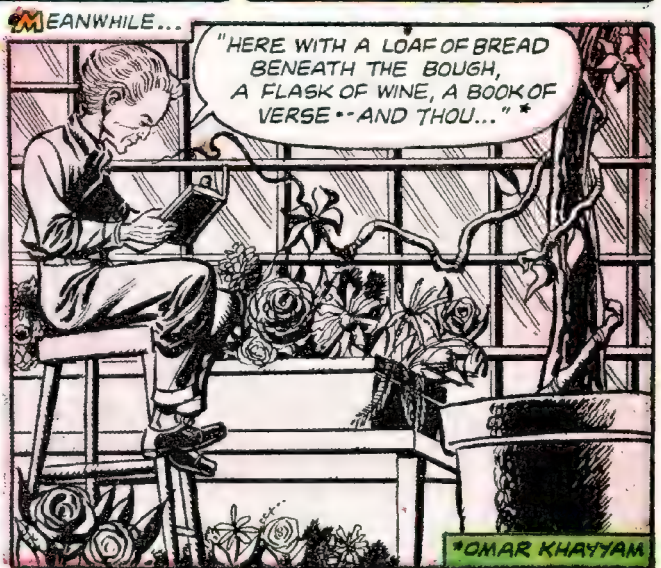
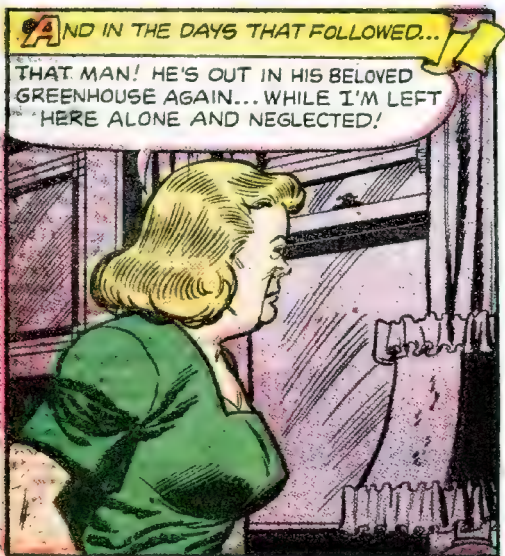
WHY...IT'S
IN LOVE
WITH ME!

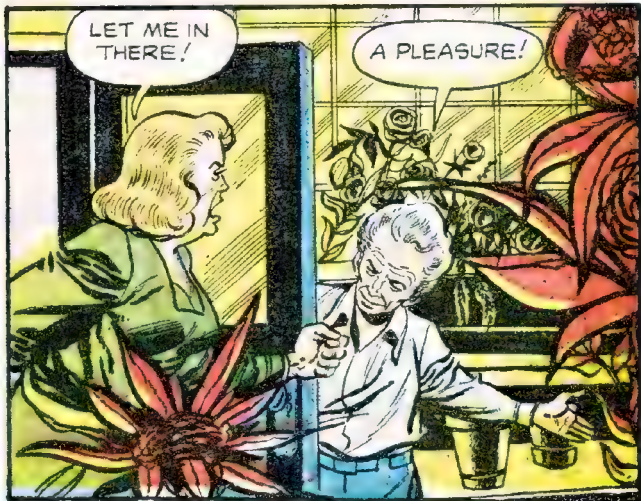
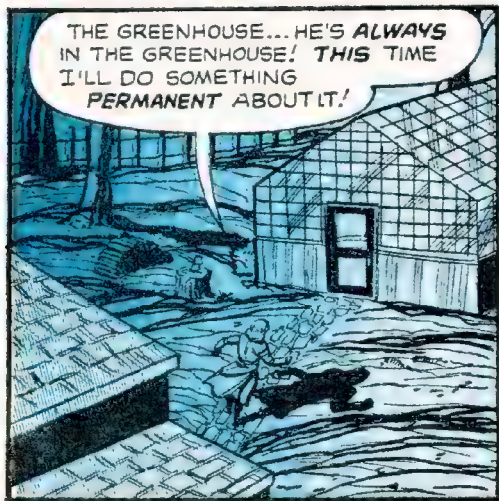
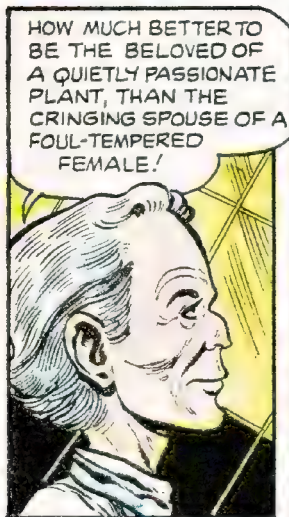


A PLANT...IN
LOVE? RIDICULOUS!
OR IS IT?



IT'S A MIRACLE OF SCIENCE!
SOME MYSTERIOUS QUALITY IN THE
POTASSIATE CARBONITE HAS
ACTUALLY ENDOWED THIS PLANT
WITH THE HUMAN
EMOTION OF LOVE!



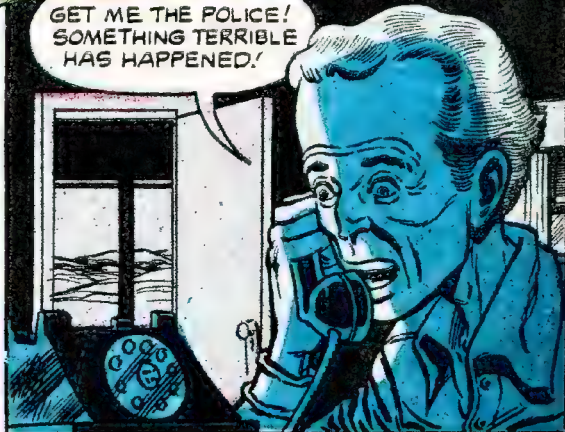


SOON...



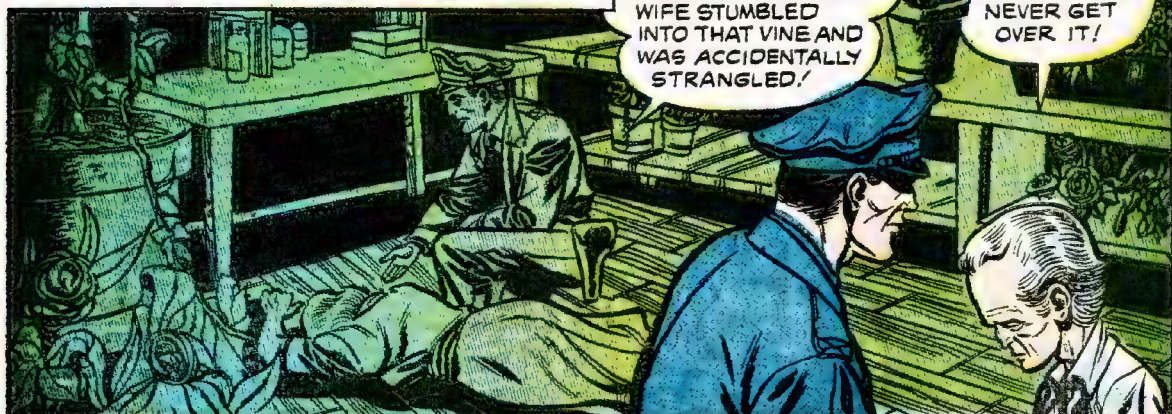
THE EFFECT OF THE HATE-SPRAY SWIFTLY WEARS OFF. THEN...

GET ME THE POLICE!
SOMETHING TERRIBLE
HAS HAPPENED!



WHAT HAPPENED IS
PRETTY OBVIOUS. YOUR
WIFE STUMBLED
INTO THAT VINE AND
WAS ACCIDENTALLY
STRANGLING!

MARTHA...
DEAD! I-I'LL
NEVER GET
OVER IT!



BUT WHEN HAZLITT IS
ALONE ONCE MORE...

IT WORKED! I'M
RID OF HER AT LAST!
THANKS TO YOU!

HAVE SOME
POTASSIATE CARBONITE,
LOVE! ENJOY!!

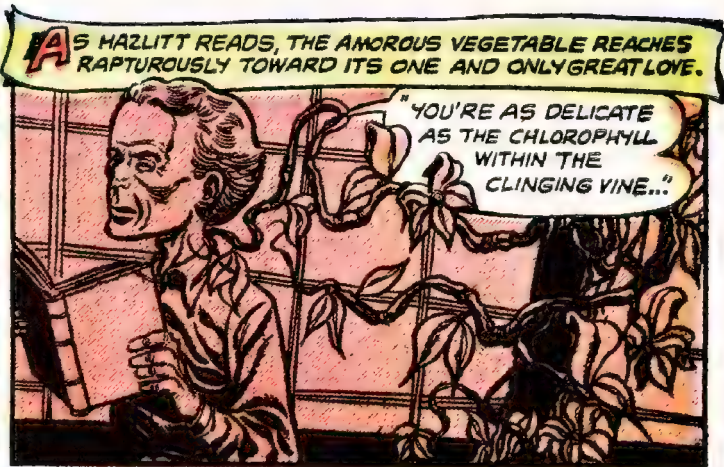


MARTHA ISN'T
AROUND TO MENACE
OUR HAPPINESS ANY
MORE! IT'LL BE JUST
YOU AND ME... AND
OUR POETRY...





"I THINK YOUR EYES ARE
WONDERFUL...
I THINK YOUR LIPS DIVINE..."



AS HAZLITT READS, THE AMOROUS VEGETABLE REACHES
RAPTUROUSLY TOWARD ITS ONE AND ONLY GREAT LOVE.

"YOU'RE AS DELICATE
AS THE CHLOROPHYLL
WITHIN THE
CLINGING VINE..."



"YOU SCARCELY EVER
CLUTCH ME...
I WORSHIP EVERY...
YAWRK!"



DESPERATELY
SOBBING,
PLEADING, AND
STRAINING,
HAZLITT
VAINLY ATTEMPTS
TO ESCAPE THE
CRUSHING,
WHIP-LIKE
STRANDS...

OH, NO!! STOP
TRYING TO HUG ME!
STOP!!
EE-YAHH!



BUT DESPITE HAZLITT'S AGONIZED
SCREAMS, THE LOVE-PLANT
INCREASES THE FEROCITY OF
ITS FERVENT EMBRACE!

ARNOLD
HAZLITT,
HORTICULTURIST
EXTRAORDINARY,
HAS BEEN
LOVED
TO DEATH...
BY A
PLANT!

THE END

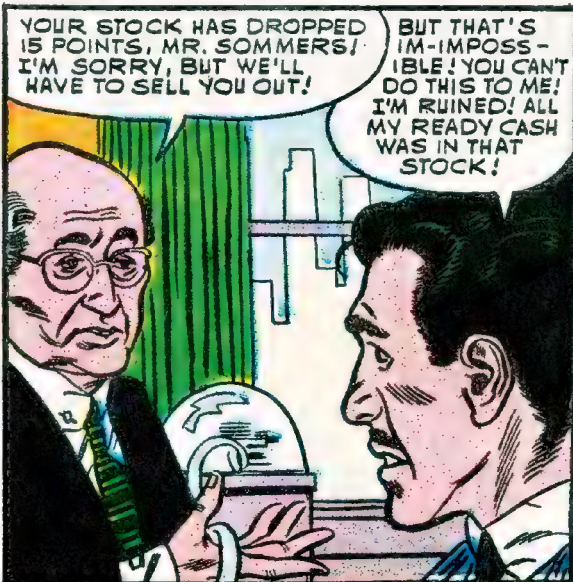
WEALTH, FAME, FORTUNE, PLEASURE-- ALL WERE GUY SOMMERS' FOR THE SPACE OF TWENTY YEARS! LIKE DR. FAUSTUS, HE HAD SOLD HIS SOUL FOR GOLD! BUT UNLIKE THE MAD DOCTOR, GUY SOMMERS WAS SURE HE WOULD NEVER HAVE TO PAY ... THAT HE WOULD BE...

THE MAN WHO BEAT THE DEVIL



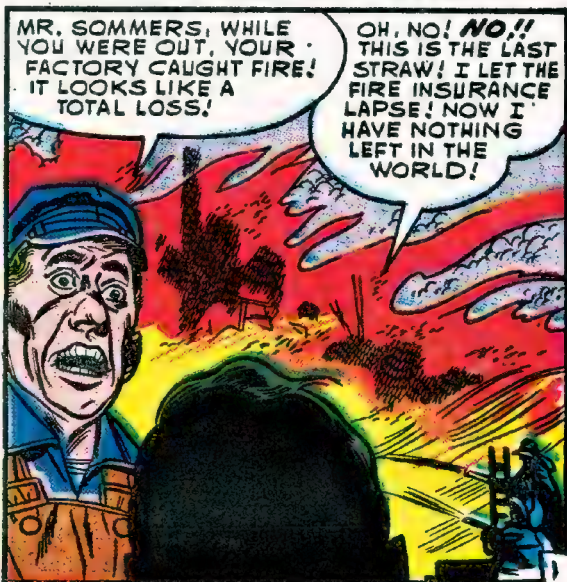
GUY SOMMERS, SCION OF A ONCE WEALTHY FAMILY, RUSHES TO HIS STOCK BROKER'S OFFICE IN ANSWER TO AN URGENT CALL...

THEN, AS GUY TRUDGES TOWARD HIS FACTORY, DISHEARTENED BY HIS FINANCIAL DISASTER, FATE STRIKES A SECOND BITTER BLOW...



YOUR STOCK HAS DROPPED 15 POINTS, MR. SOMMERS! I'M SORRY, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO SELL YOU OUT!

BUT THAT'S IM-POSS-IBLE! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! I'M RUINED! ALL MY READY CASH WAS IN THAT STOCK!



MR. SOMMERS, WHILE YOU WERE OUT, YOUR FACTORY CAUGHT FIRE! IT LOOKS LIKE A TOTAL LOSS!

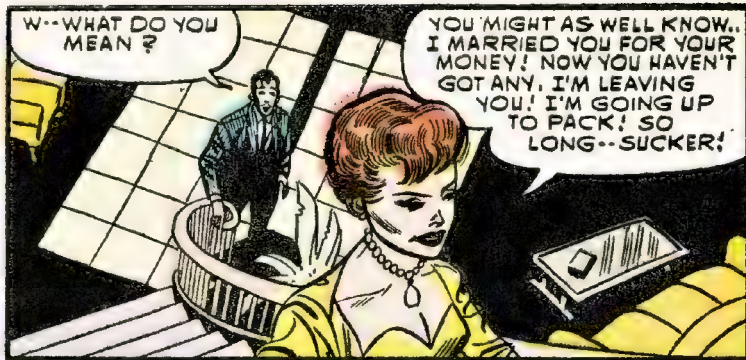
OH, NO! **NO!!** THIS IS THE LAST STRAW! I LET THE FIRE INSURANCE LAPSE! NOW I HAVE NOTHING LEFT IN THE WORLD!

LATER, AS GUY FACES HIS WIFE IN THEIR PALATIAL HOME...



...AND NOW I DON'T HAVE A CENT LEFT IN THE WORLD! I HAVE ONLY... YOU!

SO YOU'RE BROKE, EH? THEN YOU DON'T HAVE ME EITHER, GUY!

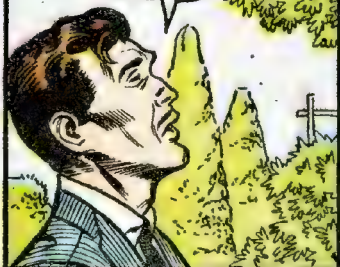


W--WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU MIGHT AS WELL KNOW.. I MARRIED YOU FOR YOUR MONEY! NOW YOU HAVEN'T GOT ANY, I'M LEAVING YOU! I'M GOING UP TO PACK! SO LONG--SUCKER!

WIFE, MONEY, AND SECURITY GONE, GUY SOMMERS WALKS OUT INTO THE GARDEN, WHERE HE MAKES A TERRIBLE VOW...

THE WORLD HAS COLLAPSED AROUND ME! NO MONEY-- MY FRIENDS WON'T HELP.. AND NOW MY WIFE TURNS OUT TO BE A GOLD-DIGGER! IF I HAD ENOUGH MONEY TO GO AWAY AND START ALL OVER AGAIN, I'D SELL MY SOUL TO THE DEVIL!



AND THEN--

KA-BOOM!



WH--WHO ARE YOU?



LET'S NOT BANDY MY NAME ABOUT, SHALL WE? YOU'LL SELL YOUR SOUL FOR MONEY, EH? VERY WELL-- JUST SIGN THIS, AND YOU'LL BE RICH!

THIS MUST BE A DREAM! I DON'T BELIEVE IN...IN... YOU--BUT IN CASE IT'S TRUE, WHAT ARE YOUR TERMS?



VERY SIMPLE--AND IT IS TRUE! JUST SIGN THIS AGREEMENT, AND YOU'LL BECOME THE RICHEST MAN ON EARTH...FOR TWENTY YEARS! AFTER THAT TIME, YOUR SOUL BECOMES MINE!

I WANT AN EXTRA CHANCE-- I'LL LOSE MY SOUL TO YOU ONLY IF I DIE BY DROWNING!



THERE! I'VE SIGNED! DROWNING, EH? YOU'VE LOST ALREADY, FOR I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE TO STAY AWAY FROM WATER. MR....

JUST CALL ME BUBB... BEEL Z. BUBB! YOU HAVE 20 YEARS! AFTER THAT, WE'LL SEE... AH, THERE'S YOUR FIRST DELIVERY NOW!

KA-BOOM!

GUY FINDS THE FIRST OF THE DEVIL'S DELIVERIES--IN THE FORM OF A LIGHTNING BOLT WHICH KILLS HIS WIFE! AND LATER...

LET ME EXPRESS MY SYMPATHIES, MR. SOMMERS, YOUR WIFE HAD INSURED EACH OF YOU FOR \$100,000--AND HERE IS YOUR CHECK!

\$100,000... OH, NO! I DIDN'T WANT THE MONEY THIS WAY!



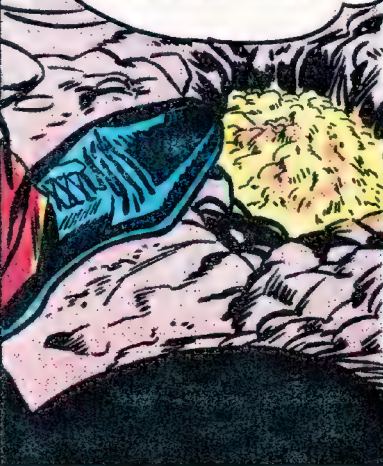
RICHER BY A FORTUNE, BUT STRICKEN WITH REMORSE, GUY WALKS AGAIN IN HIS GARDEN, UNTIL, HIS FURY GETTING THE BETTER OF HIM...

I DIDN'T WANT THE MONEY THIS WAY! THAT INFERNAL MAN! I-I WISH I COULD RIP HIM APART AS EASILY AS I CAN UPROOT THIS BUSH!



AND THEN --

GREAT SCOTT! TH--THE ROOTS OF THE BUSH CAME OUT...IT'S GOLD! I'VE BEEN LIVING OVER A GOLD MINE!



BUT ANDY'S LUCK IS NOT YET EXPENDED, FOR--

BUT I THOUGHT THAT, AS MY STOCK-BROKER, YOU HAD TO SELL ME OUT! IT'S INCREDIBLE! JUST AS I STARTED TO SEND IN THE SELLING ORDER, THE STOCK JUMPED FIFTY POINTS! YOU'VE MADE \$200,000!



AND THE NEXT MORNING, IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER PHONE CALL, GUY FINDS...

I CAME RIGHT AWAY, MR. GUSSET! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

AN UNCLE OF YOURS DIED, MR. SOMMERS--LEAVING YOU HIS WHOLE ESTATE! HERE'S HIS WILL! YOUR LEGACY IS OVER \$1,000,000!



THE GOLD REMOVED, GUY PREPARES TO LEAVE...

I WANT TO SELL MY HOME -- SO I'M HAVING A WELL DUG FOR A FRESH WATER SUPPLY! AS YOU CAN SEE, THE HOUSE HAS BEEN REPAIRED, IT'S A STEAL AT \$50,000!

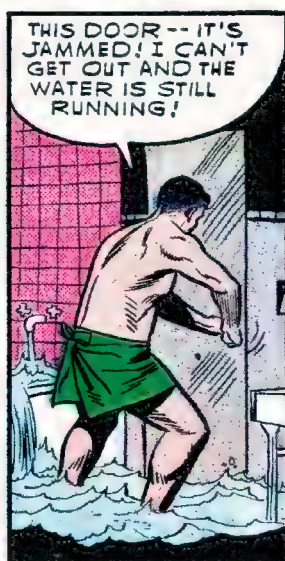
HMMM, I'LL HAVE TO THINK IT OVER! TOO BAD YOU'RE LEAVING TOWN! SAY, WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE WELL?



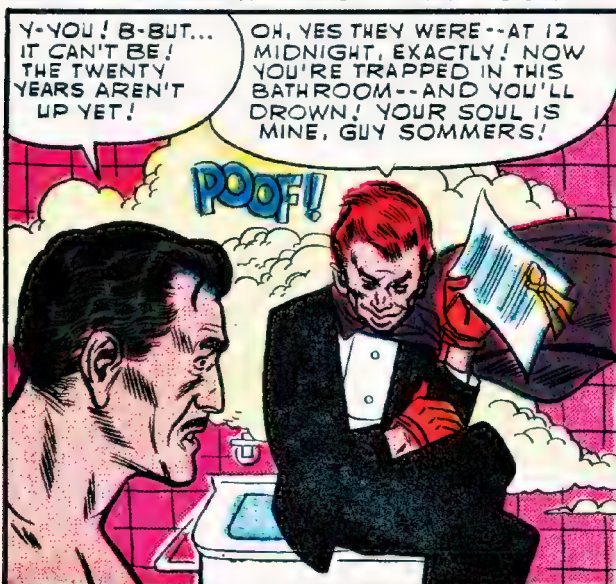
GOOD GRIEF! YOU WON'T WANT TO SELL NOW, SOMMERS! D'YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS? YOU'VE STRUCK--OIL!



AND SO THE STORY GOES! AS THE YEARS PASS, EVERYTHING GUY SOMMERS TOUCHES TURNS TO GOLD.

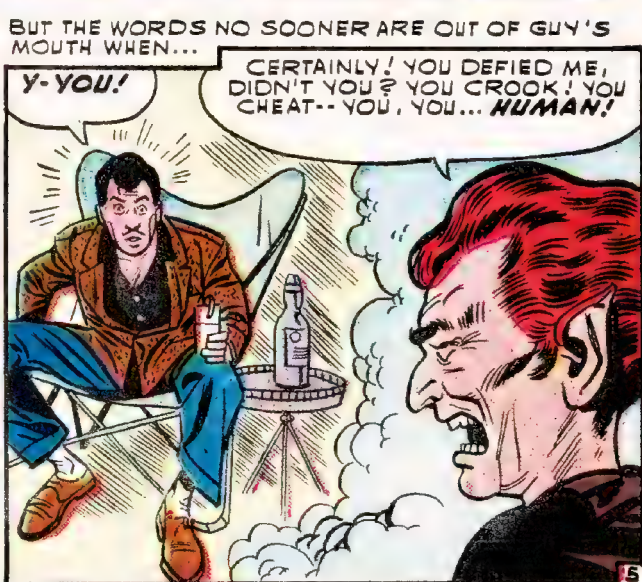
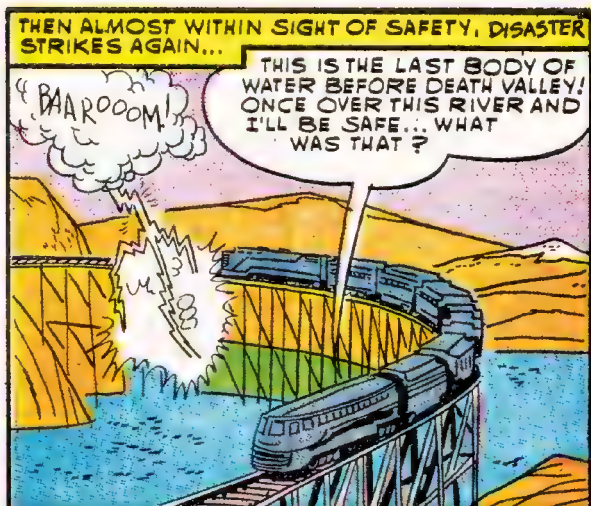


AND THEN THE MAN APPEARS TO CLAIM HIS DUE...



BUT GUY HAS A SUDDEN INSPIRATION-- ONE LAST CHANCE...







YOU'VE GONE BACK ON OUR BARGAIN! YOUR SOUL BELONGS TO ME!

ONLY IF I DROWN! AND I CAN'T DROWN-- IN DEATH VALLEY! YOU'VE LOST, BEEL Z. BUBB!



EVEN BEEL Z. HAS THE DEVIL OF A TEMPER, IT SEEMS...

IF I CAN'T GET YOUR SOUL, THEN I'LL LEAVE MY MARK ON YOU FOR LIFE!

ARRHH! LET... GO... OF MY, M-MY THROAT!



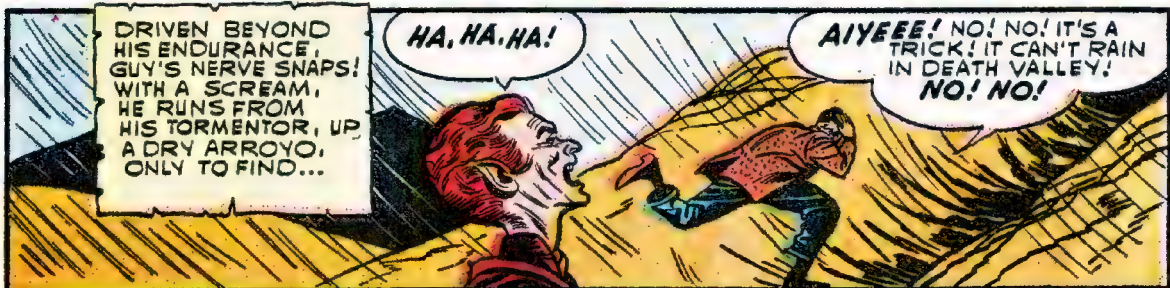
EVEN YOUR STRENGTH IS WEAKER THAN I THOUGHT! WHAT HAVE MEN BEEN AFRAID OF YOU FOR? YOUR A FAKER! A... A WEAKLING!

HA.HAHA, WAIT AND SEE!



NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE! NOT IN DEATH VALLEY! IT CAN'T RAIN HERE!

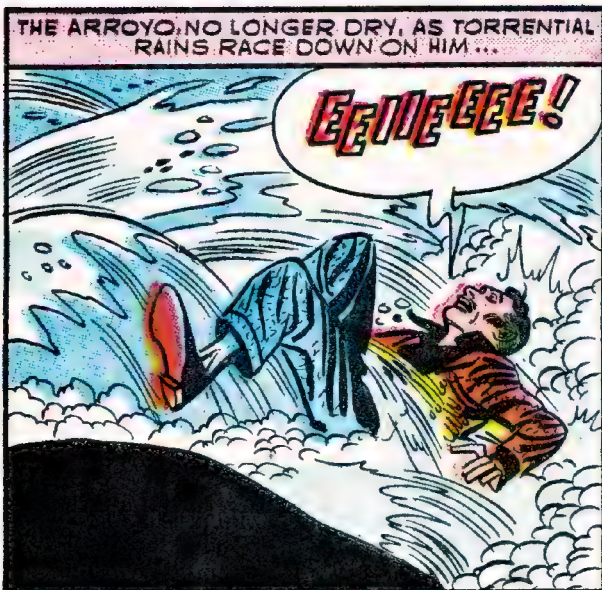
HA, HA, HA! IT CAN! IF YOU HAD KNOWN YOUR INDIAN LEGENDS, YOU WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT DEATH VALLEY IS DRY ONLY AS LONG AS THE DEVIL WEARS HIS CLOAK, THE INDIANS CALL IT-- "THE CLOAK OF STORM"! YES... I AM THE DEVIL!



DRIVEN BEYOND HIS ENDURANCE, GUY'S NERVE SNAPS! WITH A SCREAM, HE RUNS FROM HIS TORMENTOR, UP A DRY ARROYO, ONLY TO FIND...

HA, HA, HA!

AIYEE! NO! NO! IT'S A TRICK! IT CAN'T RAIN IN DEATH VALLEY! NO! NO!



THE ARROYO, NO LONGER DRY, AS TORRENTIAL RAINS RACE DOWN ON HIM...

EEEEEE!



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! AND NOW IT'S BACK TO MY DOMINION AGAIN, WITH A NEW RECRUIT! HA, HA, HA! THE MORAL IS... IF YOU SELL YOUR SOUL FOR MONEY-- THERE'S THE DEVIL TO PAY! HA HA HA HA!

THE END

the GROPING GHOST

STRANGE ARE THE WAYS OF THE UNKNOWN -BUT STRANGER STILL IS THE MIND OF MAN! WHAT WAS THE HORROR THAT LURKED AT WINGATE MANSION? ON WHAT QUEST DID IT WAIL AND HOWL, FOREVER SEARCHING-SEARCHING? TWO TWIN BROTHERS HELD ITS SECRET-AND ONLY THEY COULD ANSWER IT, FOR THE TERROR THAT REACHED OUT IN HIDEOUS COILS CAME FROM SOMETHING UNEARTHLY!



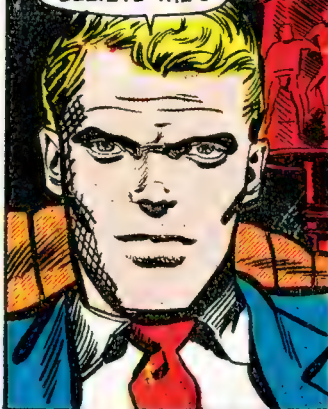
ONE STORMY NIGHT, THE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE ADVENTURERS' CLUB ARE DISCUSSING THE SUPERNATURAL...

OF COURSE, ALL THESE OCCULT PHENOMENA ARE MERELY HALLUCINATIONS.

HA, HA...OR ELSE A PRODUCT OF IGNORANT, SUPERSTITIOUS MINDS!



GENTLEMEN-I HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO YOU FOR SOME TIME NOW! WHAT IF I WERE TO TELL YOU A GHOST STORY-A STORY THAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED? WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME?



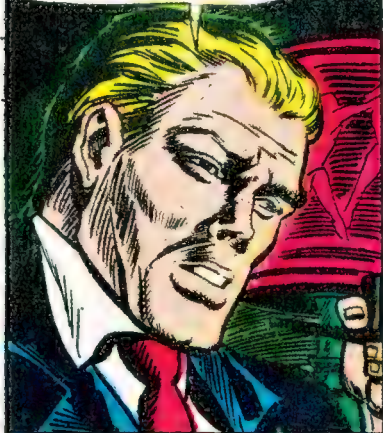
EVERYONE LOOKED AT THE SPEAKER, FOR VICTOR PEARSON, THE FAMOUS METAPHYSICIST, WAS REKNOWNED FOR HIS GENIUS...

OF COURSE, VICTOR! BUT ONLY IF YOU PROVE CONCLUSIVELY THAT GHOSTS **DO** EXIST!

GO ON, MAN! WE'RE WAITING!



WELL—IT ALL BEGAN MANY YEARS AGO! I FIRST MET JACK AND GEORGE WINGATE AT COLLEGE. THEY WERE TWIN BROTHERS—BUT AS DIFFERENT AS DAY IS FROM NIGHT....



"JACK WAS STEADY, RELIABLE, CLEAN CUT, WHILE GEORGE WAS GREEDY, CUNNING, AND SCHEMING. FROM THE VERY FIRST, JACK AND I BECAME STAUNCH FRIENDS—A RELATIONSHIP NOT EVEN HIS OWN TWIN—BROTHER COULD BREAK....

HOW ABOUT GOING TO THE LECTURE TONIGHT, JACK! IT'S BY PROF. NORINI, THE FAMOUS HYPNOTIST!

FINE! THAT SUBJECT ALWAYS INTERESTS ME!



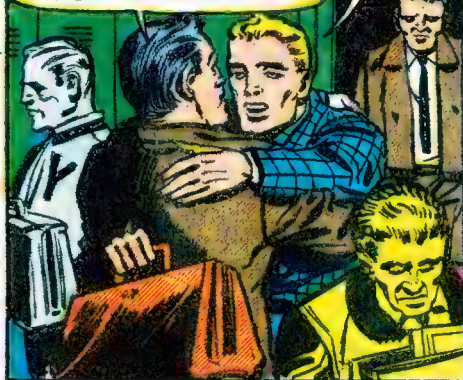
"GRADUALLY BOTH OF US BECAME IMMERSSED IN THE STUDY OF THE OCCULT AND THE SUPERNATURAL, WHICH GEORGE CONSIDERED A WASTE OF TIME. WE DEVELOPED AN OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF KNOWLEDGE BETWEEN US....



"BUT UPON GRADUATING, THERE HAD TO BE A PARTING OF THE WAYS. I WAS TRULY SORRY TO SEE MY BEST FRIEND LEAVE....

GOODBYE, VICTOR! I'M OFF TO MAINE! THERE'S A RESEARCH JOB WAITING FOR ME! LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE A SCIENTIST YET!

WRITE TO ME, OLD MAN!



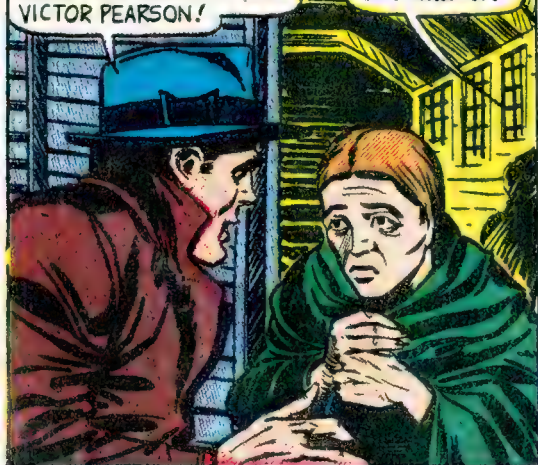
"AFTER A FEW LETTERS, I LOST TOUCH WITH JACK. THE YEARS WENT BY, I BECAME WELL-KNOWN AS AN INVESTIGATOR OF OCCULT PHENOMENA. THEN ONE DAY, I HAD TO PASS THROUGH THE HOME TOWN OF MY OLD FRIEND....

IT WILL BE WONDERFUL TO SEE JACK AGAIN! BRRR... WHAT A LONELY, FORBIDDING PLACE THIS IS! OH, WELL—THE SIGHT OF HIM WILL CHEER ME UP!



OH, EXCUSE ME! I HOPE THIS IS THE RESIDENCE OF JACK WINGATE! HIS LAST LETTER TO ME WAS FROM THIS ADDRESS! I'M VICTOR PEARSON!

—VICTOR? MY OLD FRIEND! LET HIM IN! LET HIM IN!



JACK! WHAT—WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU?

YES, VICTOR! I'M BLIND AND DISFIGURED, I KNOW! IT HAPPENED A FEW YEARS AGO! AN EXPERIMENT I HAD BEEN WORKING ON BLEW UP IN MY FACE! BUT AT LEAST I HAVE ADRIENE!



"THE SHOCK WAS UNNERVING, BUT I MANAGED TO HIDE IT. I NOW TURNED TO THE BEAUTIFUL GIRL NEXT TO JACK—THE GIRL THAT WAS HIS WIFE!

SHE'S BEEN EVERYTHING TO ME, VICTOR! I WOULD HAVE DIED LONG AGO IF IT WEREN'T FOR HER DEVOTION AND HER LOVE!

JACK HAS TOLD ME SO MUCH ABOUT YOU, VICTOR—AND I'VE READ OF YOUR RESEARCH IN THE SUPER-NATURAL! WELCOME TO WINGATE MANOR!

—AND OF COURSE THIS IS MY BROTHER, GEORGE, AND HIS WIFE BEATRICE!

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, GEORGE!

NOR HAVE YOU!

"THEN AT DINNER THAT NIGHT...

IT'S NOT FAIR! WE'RE TWINS BUT YOU INHERIT THE ESTATE! YOU'RE THE MASTER OF THIS HOUSE—YOU—A **BLIND CRIPPLE!**

I'VE GIVEN YOU EVERYTHING, GEORGE! WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?

BAH! I DON'T KNOW WHY BEATRICE AND I STAY IN THIS HOUSE!

I'M SORRY FOR MY BROTHER'S RUDENESS, VICTOR! THESE TANTRUMS AREN'T NEW! I'VE OFFERED TO GIVE ALL THE MONEY HE WANTS, BUT HE NEVER LEAVES ME—OR THE HOUSE! HE'S UPSET, THAT'S ALL!

"I WENT TO BED THAT NIGHT FEELING SICK! JACK'S LIFE HAD BECOME A CONSTANT HELL! NEXT MORNING BEFORE I LEFT, ADRIENE SPOKE TO ME...

I'M AFRAID FOR JACK, VICTOR! GEORGE IS UNBEARABLE! THE HOUSE IS HALF HIS, OF COURSE! BUT I DO HOPE YOU'LL COME AGAIN! JACK IS SO FOND OF YOU!

—AND I OF HIM, ADRIENE! THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY! I'LL SEE YOU SOON!

"HOW SOON, I NEVER REALIZED!—FOR FIVE SHORT WEEKS LATER, WHILE IN MY OWN STUDY, I RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM ADRIENE WINGATE!

GREAT SCOTT! I'LL PACK AT ONCE!

TELEGRAM
URGENT YOU
COME AT ONCE
JACK DEAD.
ADRIENE

"TWO DAYS LATER, I WAS AT WINGATE MANOR...

HOW DID IT HAPPEN, ADRIENE? I—I STILL CAN'T QUITE BELIEVE JACK IS DEAD!

IT—IT WAS GEORGE WHO FOUND HIM... HE SAID JACK TRIPPED ACCIDENTALLY ON THE STONE BALUSTRADE OF THE NORTH WING—AND FELL! OH—WHAT SHALL I DO?

I'LL STAY HERE AS LONG AS YOU NEED ME, ADRIENE! THAT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR JACK! THEN THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS I WANT TO INVESTIGATE!

SOMETHING IS WRONG HERE—**TERRIBLY WRONG...**

"GEORGE AND BEATRICE WELCOMED ME, BUT I SENSED THAT THEY WERE GUILTY AS SIN. SOMEHOW THIS FEELING GREW ON ME MORE AND MORE. AND I WAS NOT WRONG, THAT NIGHT, AS I LEARNED LATER, GEORGE AND BEATRICE PLANNED DRASTIC ACTION...

WELL, WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE MEDDLER? YOU FOOL! I TOLD YOU TO GET RID OF ADRIENE BEFORE ANY OF HER FRIENDS ARRIVED! NOW SHE'LL INHERIT THE ESTATE!

LEAVE IT TO ME! THIS DAGGER WILL FINISH OUR TASK!



HER ROOM IS DOWN AT THE END OF THE HALL! KEEP VERY QUIET NOW!



HA, HA... SHE'LL DIE LIKE HER HUSBAND—SWIFT—JUST LIKE THAT!

SHHH! BE STILL! DO YOU WANT TO WAKE BOTH OF THEM UP? WE'RE ALMOST THERE!



W-WHAT WAS THAT? I-I HEARD A NOISE! ONLY THE THUNDER AND LIGHTNING!



L-LOOK! SOMETHING'S RISING FROM THE FLOORBOARDS!

Y-YOU'RE CRAZY! IT'S ONLY YOUR IMAGINATION, I TELL YOU! JUST SOME SMOKE!

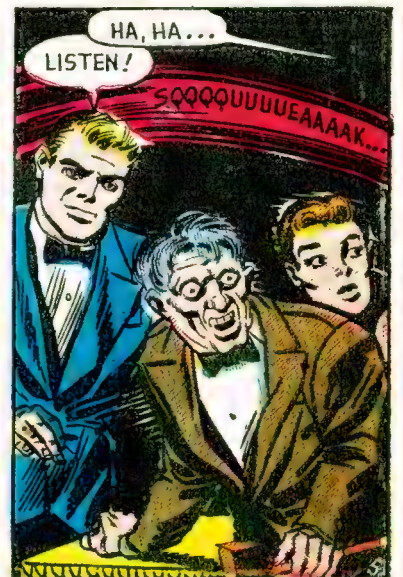
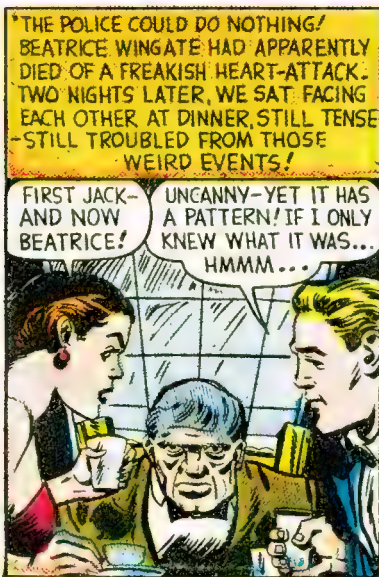
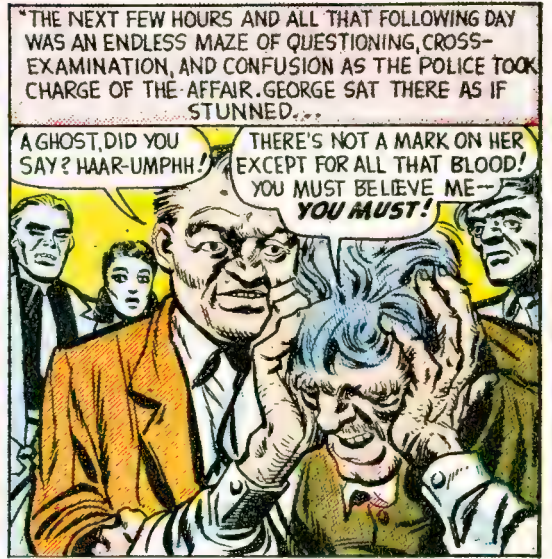
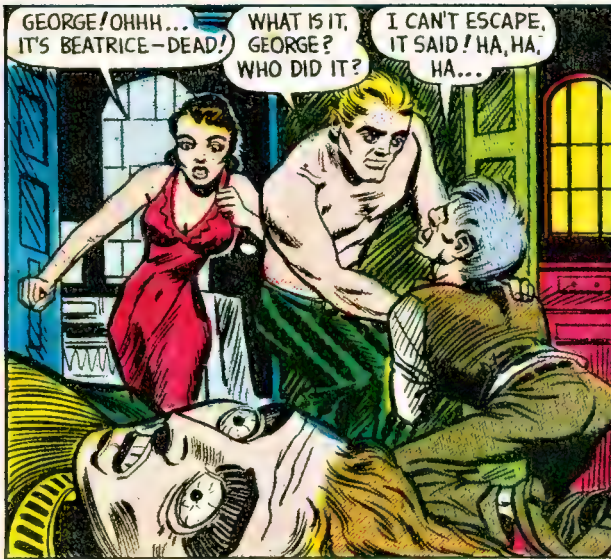


THERE'S SOMETHING IN THOSE SHADOWS—ALIVE—WAITING FOR US! EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!



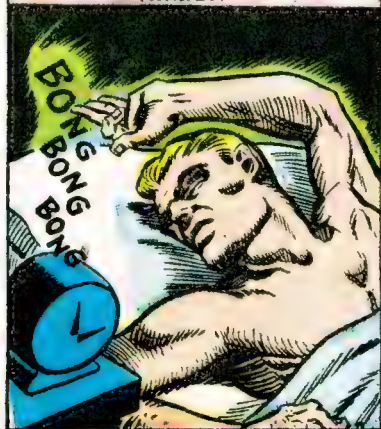
YOU—CANNOT—ESCAPE! NO ONE CAN ESCAPE THE VENGEANCE FROM THE BEYOND! HA, HA, HA, HA....







"I WAS SOON TO LEARN THE ANSWER! AS THE HOURS SPED BY, I TOSSED AND TURNED IN MY SLEEP. IN THE BACK OF MY MIND, HOWEVER, I WAS AWARE THAT THE CLOCK HAD STRUCK THREE..."



"-AND THEN I SENSED IT NEAR ME! THE WIND WAS SHRIEKING IN DISMAL FURY! BUT NOW THERE CAME ANOTHER WAIL-A WAIL OF THE DAMNED!"



OOOOEEEEEE! ANOTHER MORTAL FOR MY ARMS! HA, HA, HA...

THAT HAND-IT'S LIKE ICE! GOT TO GET FREE!

URRRGHH-CAN'T BREATHE... WHIRLPOOL-GOING DEEPER INTO IT-DEEPER!



HA
HA
HA
HA

"THEN-MERCIFUL BLACKNESS! BUT SLOWLY THE DARKNESS PASSED! THE GHOST HAD NOT KILLED ME! JUST THEN-



ADRIENE! SHE'S ALONE IN HER ROOM-WITH THE GHOST!

EEEEEE-E-E

SOMEONE-SOMETHING- IS ABOUT TO KILL HER!



EEEEEEEE

STAY AWAY FROM ME, VICTOR-OR I'LL KILL YOU AS I KILLED JACK-AS I'M GOING TO KILL ADRIENE!

GEORGE! HE'S GONE INSANE!



CRASHH

YOU THOUGHT MY BROTHER'S DEATH WAS AN ACCIDENT, DIDN'T YOU? HA, HA... I **PUSHED HIM!** THE HOUSE- THE ESTATE- THEY'RE RIGHTFULLY MINE! HE HAD NO RIGHT, DO YOU HEAR? JACK WAS STRANGE! I **HATED HIM!** HA, HA, HA...



GIVE ME THAT KNIFE!

NEVER! SHE BELONGS WITH HER HUSBAND! SHE BELONGS IN A ROTTED GRAVE! HA, HA...



"WE STRUGGLED FURIOUSLY, BUT I WAS NO MATCH FOR A MADMAN POSSESSED WITH INSANE STRENGTH! I WAS KNOCKED TO THE FLOOR, SENSELESS! ONLY ADRIENE'S SCREAM AROUSED ME..."



HELP, VICTOR!

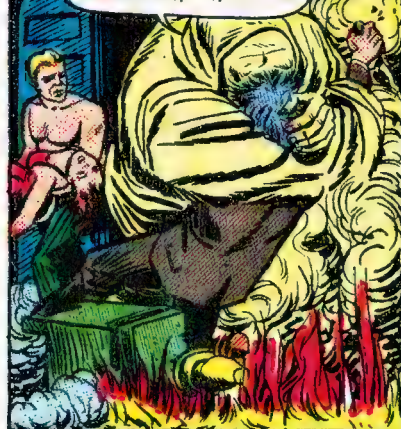
DON'T SCREAM, PRETTY ADRIENE! THIS WON'T HURT! JUST ONE QUICK SLASH—JUST ONE LITTLE SNIP-AND-

AT LAST, GEORGE WINGATE! AT LAST! COME INTO MY EVERLASTING EMBRACE—DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

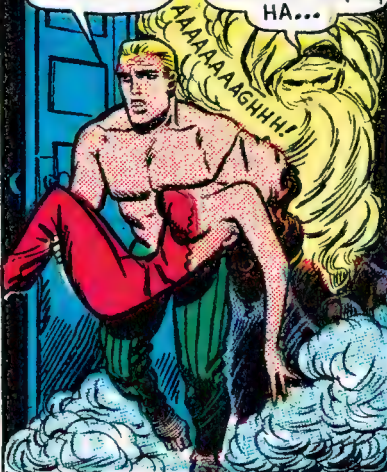


JACK! N-NO! YOU'RE DEAD! I SAW YOU WITH YOUR HEAD BASHED IN!

COME TO ME, MY DEAR BROTHER! COME WITH ME TO MY RESTING PLACE—I SHALL SHARE IT WITH YOU—AS I HAVE SHARED EVERYTHING ELSE! HA, HA, HA....



MUST GET HER OUT OF HERE! NO TIME TO LOSE...



FOREVER—AND FOREVER—AND FOREVER! HA, HA, HA...

IT'S ALL OVER, DARLING! IT'S ALL OVER—!



THERE'S SILENCE IN THE CLUBROOM AS VICTOR FINISHES HIS STORY.

I TOOK ADRIENE AWAY FROM WINGATE MANSION AND MARRIED HER A YEAR LATER...

BUT WHAT OF THE GHOST, MAN? WHY DID IT GO THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE TO SEIZE YOU?

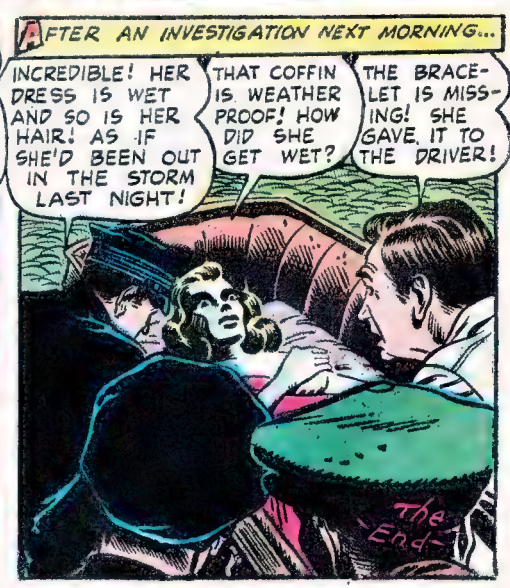
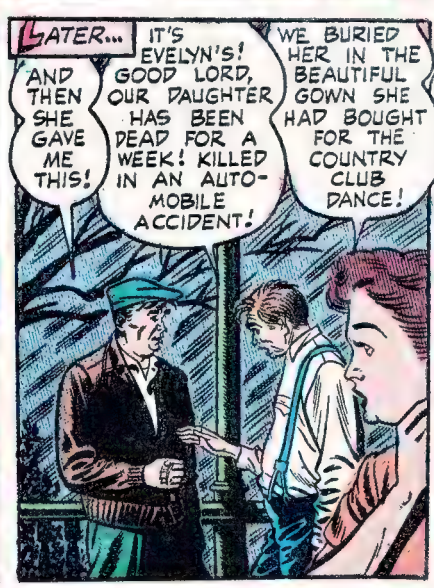
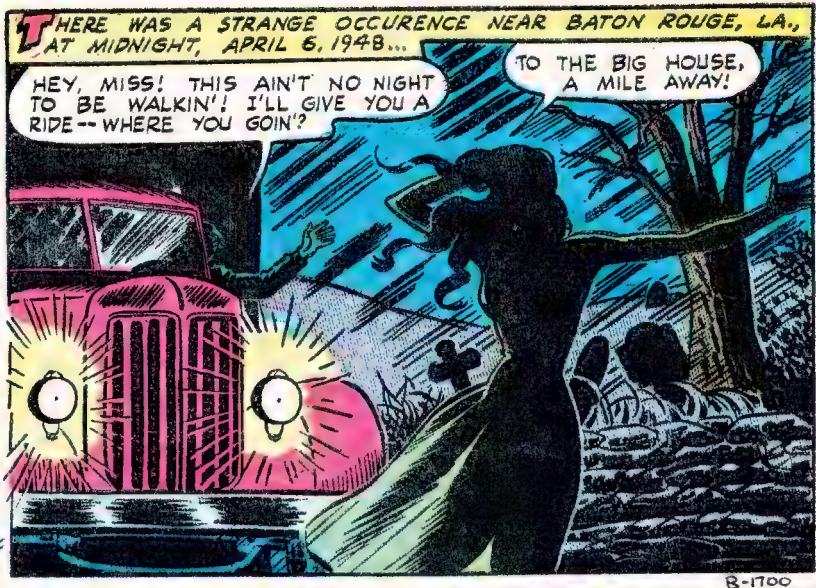
AND HOW DID YOU KNOW THE GHOST WAS JACK?

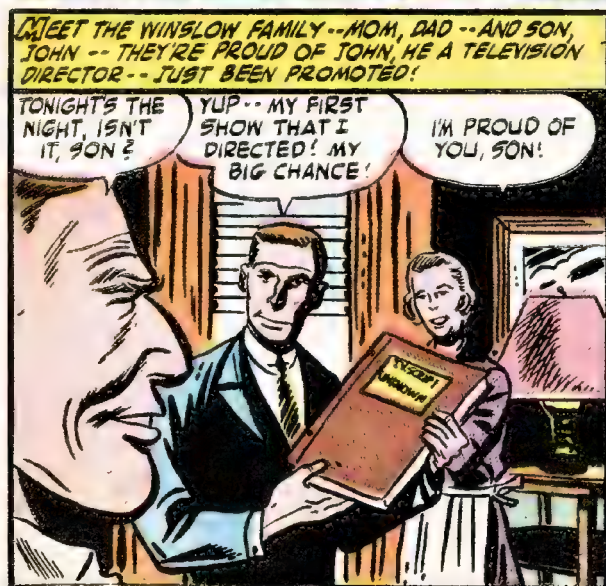


THE CREATURE MADE SURE OF EVERYONE IN THE MANSION BEFORE KILLING THOSE IT SOUGHT! THEREFORE, IT **HAD** TO BE THE SPECTER OF JACK—FOR LIKE HIM IN LIFE, IT WAS **BLIND**! THE TWINS, NEVER UNITED IN LIFE, WERE FINALLY JOINED FOREVER IN DEATH!



RIDER IN THE STORM





SURE THEY INVITED IN THEIR NEIGHBORS---- WASN'T THEIR SON A CELEBRITY? THEY WERE GOING TO MAKE A BIG NIGHT OF IT--- A REAL BIG NIGHT!

YUP --- AND HIS BOSS SAID THAT IF THE SHOW WENT OVER HE'D BE IN LINE FOR A FULL HOUR COMEDY SPOT! BUT I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT JOHN - HE'S A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK!

NOW DAD-- YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH TALKING! BESIDES, IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE PROGRAM TO BEGIN!



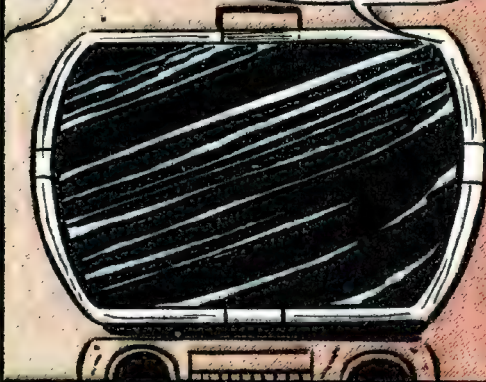
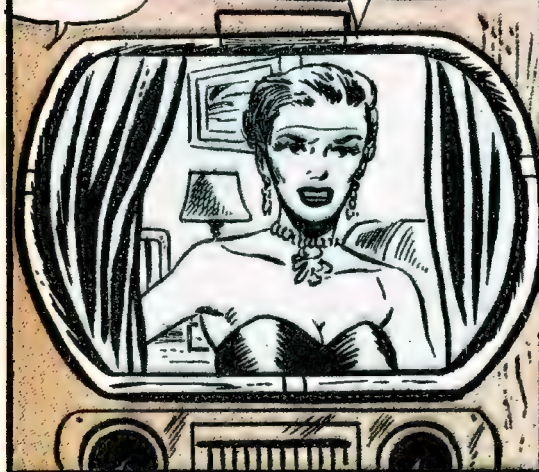
LOOK, IT'S STARTING!

WHERE IS HE-- HE SAID HE'D BE HERE AN HOUR AGO!

THE PROUD FAMILY AND FRIENDS STARED INTENTLY AT THE SCREEN -- ENRAPT IN THE UNFOLDING PROGRAM -- BUT SUDDENLY ---

WHAT HAPPENED!

I DON'T KNOW -- IT JUST WENT BLACK! MUST BE AT THE STATION!



BUT JUST AS SUDDENLY THE IMAGE RETURNED -- BUT WHAT AN IMAGE!

AARRGH! HOW DISGUSTING!

OH, MOM, IT'S ONLY TELEVISION -- YOU KNOW HOW THEY GO FOR MONSTERS!

INTENTLY THEY STARED AT THE HORRIBLE FACE BEFORE THEM -- AND THEN --

I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT JUST HAPPENED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, BUT WE CAN'T SEEM TO FIND WHERE THAT FACE CAME FROM!

HOW CLEVER OF JOHNNY-- IMAGINE, MAKING PEOPLE THINK THAT IT WASN'T PART OF THE PROGRAM-- THAT'S MY BOY, ALL RIGHT!



THEIR ATTENTION WAS COMPLETELY CAPTURED BY THE ACTION THAT WAS UNFOLDING BEFORE THEM -- A STORY THEY HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE -- NEVER DREAMED OF BEFORE--

NO! NO! STOP IT!
SOMEBODY
STOP IT!



THE CAMERA WORK WAS SENSATIONAL, IT FOLLOWED EVERY ACTION OF THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE HORRIFIED GIRL AND THE-- THE-- WELL WHAT WOULD YOU CALL THE THING?



HORRIFIED THEY WATCHED THE CLOSE-UP--- WATCHED THE GIRL SUDDENLY TENSE --- TWIST-- HER FEATURES DISTORTED IN PAIN-- AND THEN THERE WAS NO GIRL -- ONLY ANOTHER MONSTER!



DON'T BE ALARMED - AS SOON AS WE FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE EVERYTHING WILL BE STRAIGHTENED OUT-- WE ARE CALLING THE POLICE!



HOW ABOUT THAT SON OF MINE - DID YOU EVER SEE ANYTHING LIKE THIS! THIS IS WHAT I CALL IMAGINATION -- BEST SHOW I'VE EVER SEEN!

ME TOO-- WHY HE'S ALMOST GOT ME BELIEVING IT! SURE IS REAL!

YES! ALMOST TOO REAL!



HORROR STRUCK AT THEIR HEARTS AS THEY WATCHED THE BLOOD-CURDLING SCENE UNFOLD BEFORE THEIR EYES! TERROR STRUCK AT THEIR SOULS AT THE SIGHT OF THE UNKNOWN THAT WAS BEING REVEALED TO THEM -- BUT THIS WAS THEIR SON -- AND SO THEY WATCHED ENTRANCED!



I--I WISH HE WOULDN'T BE SO DRAMATIC!

COME NOW, MOM--THAT'S WHAT MAKES HIM DIFFERENT-- HE'S HITTING YOU RIGHT BETWEEN THE EYES -- WHY, WOULDN'T YOU SWEAR THAT THIS WAS REALLY HAPPENING!!!



ONCE AGAIN THEIR EYES TURNED TO THE SCREEN -- TO A SCENE THAT WAS LIFE-LIKE -- TOO MUCH SO!

LOOK! THEY'RE GOING OUT INTO THE STREET!

MARVELOUS! BUT HOW DOES HE DO IT!



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN -- I MUST WARN YOU TO STAY OFF THE STREETS-- THE SCENE YOU ARE WITNESSING IS ACTUALLY-- NO, NO, **NO!**



WHAT HAD HE BEEN TRYING TO TELL THEM-- TO WARN THEM ABOUT-- WHY, JOHN HADN'T OVERLOOKED A SINGLE DETAIL! IT WAS PERFECT! TOO PERFECT!



WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR SON NOW! HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE!

NO - AND I HOPE I NEVER WILL AGAIN! I'VE GOT TO SPEAK TO SONNY WHEN HE COMES HOME! DOESN'T HE KNOW ABOUT GOOD TASTE AND THINGS LIKE THAT? HE'S BEEN READING TOO MANY COMIC BOOKS!



THEY COULDN'T KEEP THEIR EYES FROM THE SET -- AND THOUGH THEY CHILLED AT THE SIGHT OF THE GORE THEY THRILLED AT THE DRAMA THAT WAS BEING BROUGHT TO THEM ---



BUT NOW JOHN HAD OVERSTEPPED THE BOUNDS -- EVEN HIS OWN FAMILY CONCEDED TO THAT --

THIS IS TOO GRUESOME -- JUST IMAGINE THE EFFECT IT WILL HAVE ON THE CHILDREN WATCHING -- BESIDES, IT'S TOO REAL -- THINGS LIKE THAT JUST DON'T HAPPEN!

YOU'RE RIGHT, MOM -- EVEN I'M BEGINNING TO GET A LITTLE NERVOUS!



ONCE AGAIN THEY TURNED TO THE TV SCREEN -- FASCINATED -- ATTRACTED -- AND WAITING --

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN -- I'M HIDING IN THIS CLOSET TO GIVE YOU AN UNINTERRUPTED REPORT -- SOMETHING VERY STRANGE HAS HAPPENED -- THE HORRIBLE CREATURES THAT YOU SEE POSSESS AN EERIE POWER ---



THEY LISTENED ENTHRALLED -- IT SOUNDED SO AUTHENTIC -- SO REAL --

ONCE THEY BITE THEIR VICTIMS, THEY TURN INTO THESE -- THESE -- MONSTERS -- THERE SEEMS TO BE NO DEFENSES AGAINST THEM, SO I MUST WARN YOU NOT TO -- NO! ...

NO... NO!



WHY DID HE STOP -- WHY COULDN'T HE KEEP ON TALKING -- THE SUSPENSE WAS TREMENDOUS -- SO WELL DONE -- A PERFECT PROGRAM!



ONCE AGAIN A LARGE PANORAMIC SHOT FILLED THE SCREEN -- AN ORGY OF HORROR AND TERROR APPEARED BEFORE THEM --- AND FASCINATED THEY WATCHED --- AND GLOATED -- FOR THIS WAS THEIR SON'S DOING -- HOW COULD THEY HELP BUT BE PROUD--?



OH, NO -- HE'S GONE TOO FAR, NOW!

TURN IT OFF! TURN IT OFF! I CAN'T STAND ANYMORE!

THE SCREEN WENT BLANK AND STILL THEY CONTINUED TO STARE AT IT-- AND REMEMBER -- THIS WAS SOMETHING THEY WOULD TAKE WITH THEM TO THE GRAVE ---

BOY, I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE-- AND I HOPE NEVER AGAIN! THAT BOY'S IMAGINATION HAS GOT TO BE CURBED!

WONDER WHAT THAT ANNOUNCER WAS TRYING TO TELL US..



OH, IT WAS JUST PART OF THE SHOW-- WHY DON'T YOU ASK JOHNNY WHEN HE COMES HOME!

I THINK I HEAR HIM NOW -- THAT YOU, SON? I'VE GOT SOME THINGS I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT!



YES-- IT'S-- ME-- I'VE -- COME -- FOR-- YOU-- BOTH-- OF-- YOU--



WHAT'S THE MATTER--A LITTLE TOO SQUEAMISH FOR YOU? WELL GO AHEAD -- TURN ON, YOUR SETS--I DARE YOU -- I DARE YOU-- HEH-- HEH-- HEH!

